

"A series of vibrations. What does it matter, the source of the catalyst?"

Wayne Shorter

kmhd 89.1

A substance that initiates or accelerates a chemical reaction without itself being affected...



Performances Steal BET Awards Spotlight

(AP) - Stevie Wonder showed off his dance moves, Will Smith arrived in a horse-drawn carriage and The Fugees got together again. Extravagant performances and on-stage antics largely stole the spotlight from the winners at Tuesday night's BET Awards - if the winners showed up at all, that is.



Stevie Wonder, right, performs with an unidentified vocalist during the 5th annual BET Awards on Tuesday, June 28 in Los Angeles. (AP Photo)

Among the eight no-shows was top honoree Kanye West, who earned trophies for male hip-hop artist and video of the year for "Jesus Walks."

West's discovery, piano man John Legend, picked up his trophy for new artist and performed "Ordinary People" and "My Cherie Amour" with Wonder, who later danced while singing his new single, "So What The Fuss."

Soul diva Alicia Keys hoisted her award for female R&B artist toward the audience and declared: "This is for all my people who are really trying to dream

big dreams."

The show kicked off with a surprise reunion of The Fugees, who haven't recorded an album together since 1996's "The Score" and haven't even been on speaking terms in recent years.

Hosts Mr. and Mrs. Smith - that's Will and Jada Pinkett - arrived on-stage at Hollywood's Kodak Theatre in a horse-drawn carriage with spinning custom rims.

Denzel Washington's wife Pauletta accepted an award honoring the couple's charitable endeavors, and Keys presented R&B and gospel legend Gladys Knight with a lifetime achievement trophy.

Knight then performed three songs including the tune that got her and the Pips their first Grammy, "Neither One Of Us (Wants To Be The First To Say Goodbye)."

Missy Elliott Changes Creative Tune

(AP) - Rapper, singer and superproducer Missy Elliott has kept her platinum status for almost a decade by giving fans the unpredictable, the unheard, the unfathomable each time out. With surreal, sci-fi sounding grooves, out-there lyrics and trippy videos, Elliott has thrown listeners for a loop so many times that when something intoxicatingly weird makes its way to the radio, you can almost guess it's Elliott.



Missy Elliott performs during the 5th annual BET Awards on Tuesday, June 28, in Los Angeles. (AP Photo)

"She's totally creative - she's just pushed the envelope of hip-hop and music period a lot farther than ever before," says Alicia Keys, who toured with Elliott and Beyonce last year.

But as "The Cookbook," is released soon, Elliott is giving her fans the unexpected once again by - gasp! - sounding a little more

conventional.

"It's more to the center," says Elliott, flashing a grin as she describes her latest change-up. "It

worked for its time - the gimmicky, character 'Missy,' but now, it's like with music changing so much, it's more in that center lane.

Still, for those looking for that "where-did-that-come-from" groove that defies categorization, Elliott has gone and tinkered with the recipe. While right-hand man Timbaland is still providing hypnotic beats, for the first time Elliott has branched out, tapping the Neptunes and other producers to stretch her sound.

Timbaland also "wanted to try other people to see how would it sound."

So with "The Cookbook," which boasts collaborations with Mary J. Blige, Slick Rick, Ciara, Fantasia and Mike Jones, Elliott made sure she took the time to get it right.

As she strokes her new "baby," a Yorkie puppy named Poncho sleeping in her lap, she also cites "different experiences in your life that you want to talk about."

Will Smith Urges Rapper Role Models

(AP) - Will Smith made a big introduction at last week's BET Awards: Gangster rappers, meet the rest of the world. Smith told The Associated Press he hopes to impress the global significance of U.S. black culture on the show's audience and artists.

thuggish themes.

"It's real important to have balance of the imagery. Yes, there are people who fire guns in the street, but there's also doctors who go to work in those areas to feed their children," Smith said.

Smith, co-host of the show with wife Jada Pinkett-Smith, won the first rap Grammy in 1988 for his squeaky-clean "Parents Just Don't Understand." He said he wants hip-hop artists to recognize their importance and shift away from

He picks out Common and Mos Def as other artists "that really have something to say that don't necessarily fit on the '106th & Park' top 10."

Now more well-known as a movie star ("Men in Black," "Bad Boys," "Independence Day") than rapper, the 36-year-old



Smith maintains on his latest album "Lost And Found" that his nice guy image has worked against him.

"Black radio, they won't play me though," he raps in one song. "Guess they think that Will ain't hard enough. Maybe I should just have a shootout ... just ignorant, attacking, acting rough. I mean then, will I be black enough?"

Will Smith performs his hit single "Switch" before the start of game one of the NBA finals in San Antonio, June 9. (AP Photo)

Reality Show Features Bobby and Whitney

(AP) - "Being Bobby Brown," which features Brown and his wife, pop songstress Whitney Houston, recently premiered on Bravo, cable channel 181.

Brown, a former member of New Edition, married Houston in 1992. He took off with singles such as "Don't Be Cruel," but progressively became known more for his drug and alcohol arrests.

In an interview on "Dateline NBC," Brown said he decided to allow cameras to follow him for six months because "it's easy for people to just have the freedom to be able to say things about me, and me not say anything. That's the easy part."

On Dec. 7, 2003, Houston called police, alleging that Brown had struck her in the face at their home near Alpharetta, a suburb north of Atlanta.

Brown, 36, said the couple are "two addictive personalities."

Making Changes

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a bill not been passed once it's made it through the committee," Shields said. "Sometimes the best effect you can have there is to tap on the brakes and I was able to do that."

He recently introduced a "Home-ward Bound" memorial urging Congress to pass a resolution stating a definite timeline for withdrawal from Iraq. He believes it will send a message to Washington and other legislatures nationwide that strategies need to be altered to halt further bloodshed of U.S. soldiers and Iraqi citizens.

Some of his best inspiration doesn't come from his office, though. Shields said he was at Geneva's to get a haircut earlier this year and was reading House Bill 2313, which would increase sentencing for criminal street gang members.

"They have overthrown a despicable dictator. They have ushered in Iraq's first elections. They have secured a victory. And now, we're here to say that the Home-ward Bound Act is a way to bring our troops home," Shields said.

"It doesn't take a genius to figure out the ethnicity of who this would affect," Shields said.

Back in north and northeast Portland, his main hopes for the future aren't grandiose, just reasonable and fair. He simply wants those who grew up in the area to be able to afford to stay here, that everyone has a fair shot at local living wage jobs, for improved school and health care funding and more fairness in criminal justice issues.

He explained the bill to others in the Geneva's shop, and when Portland Chief of Police Derrick Foxworth came in a week later for his haircut, he heard about it.

And he's working on it.

"I think that whole interaction played a significant role in the city of Portland opposing the measure," Shields said.

He's hoping to make an impact on more than just Portland, though.

The Portland Observer 503-288-0033

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