

# FOCUS

## Prince Greeted Fans for CD Debut

(AP)—Fans waiting to buy copies of Prince's highly anticipated new album, "3121," were greeted with something even better - a surprise performance by Prince himself.

Wearing a white top hat and jacket, the pop-funk maestro launched into a punchy set of songs at midnight March 21 at the Sunset Tower Records in Hollywood, Calif.

Fans screamed, dancers onstage shimmed. Prince broke out his frenzied guitar playing, and longtime collaborator Sheila E joined in on percussion, according to a Tower press release.

"It was an impromptu decision. He lives in L.A.," said Serena



Prince performs Feb. 15 in London.

Gallagher, publicist for Prince's label, Universal Motown Records.

## Production Prowess Rewarded

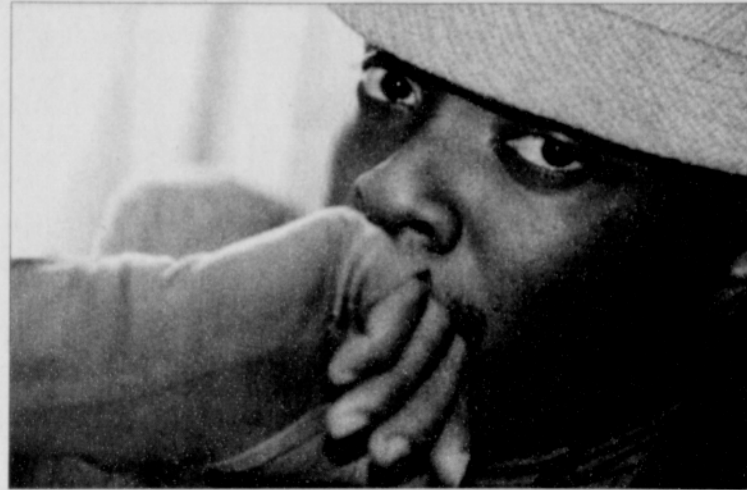
### Black Eyed Peas' leader gets recognition

(AP)—It took two multiplatinum albums, several hits and a few Grammy nominations for people to realize that the Black Eyed Peas weren't just a silly, poppy, hip-hop gimmick.

So will.i.am - best known as the group's dreadlocked lead lyricist, but more importantly is its creative director - isn't surprised that it has taken awhile for the world to take note of his production prowess as the Peas' main writer and producer, but also as a producer and songwriter for others.

What surprises him is the song that finally made people come around.

"The thing that made people realize me as a producer was 'My Humps,' ironically," will shrugs about last year's wacky smash



will.i.am is the producer of the music group Black Eyed Peas. (AP photo)

about the lure of the female form.

"People were like 'Yo, you do that beat?' It's like, 'Boom, boom, boom,'" he says, laughing at the simplistic beat. "That's the nutty part! I've worked with Earth, Wind & Fire - crazy horn production, all this stuff, miking kalimbas, miking drums-like PRODUCTION!... But I got people coming crazy for me

because of 'My Humps.'"

If they come because of "My Humps," they soon learn that his repertoire is broader than that - or even the Black Eyed Peas. Will (who's given name is William Adams) was nominated for a Grammy for song of the year for co-writing John Legend's breakout acoustic piano ballad,

"Ordinary People," and he recently produced Sergio Mendes' all-star comeback album as well as a song for Mary J. Blige on her comeback smash album "The Breakthrough."

Some of his upcoming projects include Diddy, Snoop Dogg, and Justin Timberlake - a list that definitely places him on the hot list of producers.

"He's brilliant - he's one of my favorite people to work with," says Legend. "He's bouncing off the wall in the studio, and he's so positive. It's just fun to work with people like that."

But will never craved to be that producer with whom everyone wanted to work.

"For a while I was anti-working outside of the Peas, because I wanted to save all the good stuff for us," says will, only semi-joking.

Clearly, that approach helped the Peas, who began their first headline tour in the United States on Thursday.



"Because I know how to play jazz and that's where my heart is, I need to come back to something simple again to satisfy my integrity. The average person may not understand."  
Brian McKnight

KMHD is a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to providing quality jazz, blues, and traditional American music 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

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## New Breed of Folk

Tim Eriksen, one of the new breed of folk musicians who emerged from the sound and fury of punk rock to embrace the subtlety and spirit of traditional acoustic music, will offer a solo Portland appearance for one night only at the intimate Mississippi Studios, 3939 N. Mississippi Ave. on Saturday, April 1.

The concert will start at 9:30 p.m. and admission is \$15 for those 21 and over.

Probably the only performer to have shared a stage with both Kurt Cobain and

Doc Watson, Eriksen's musical vision encompasses musical polar extremes with an enormous range of music styles from around the world.

In addition, his powerful voice, heard by many in the 2003 movie Cold Mountain, will breathe life into the maxim that "everything old is new again" as he performs both traditional American music and his own original tunes.

This solo show will also feature Eriksen on the guitar, banjo and fiddle.

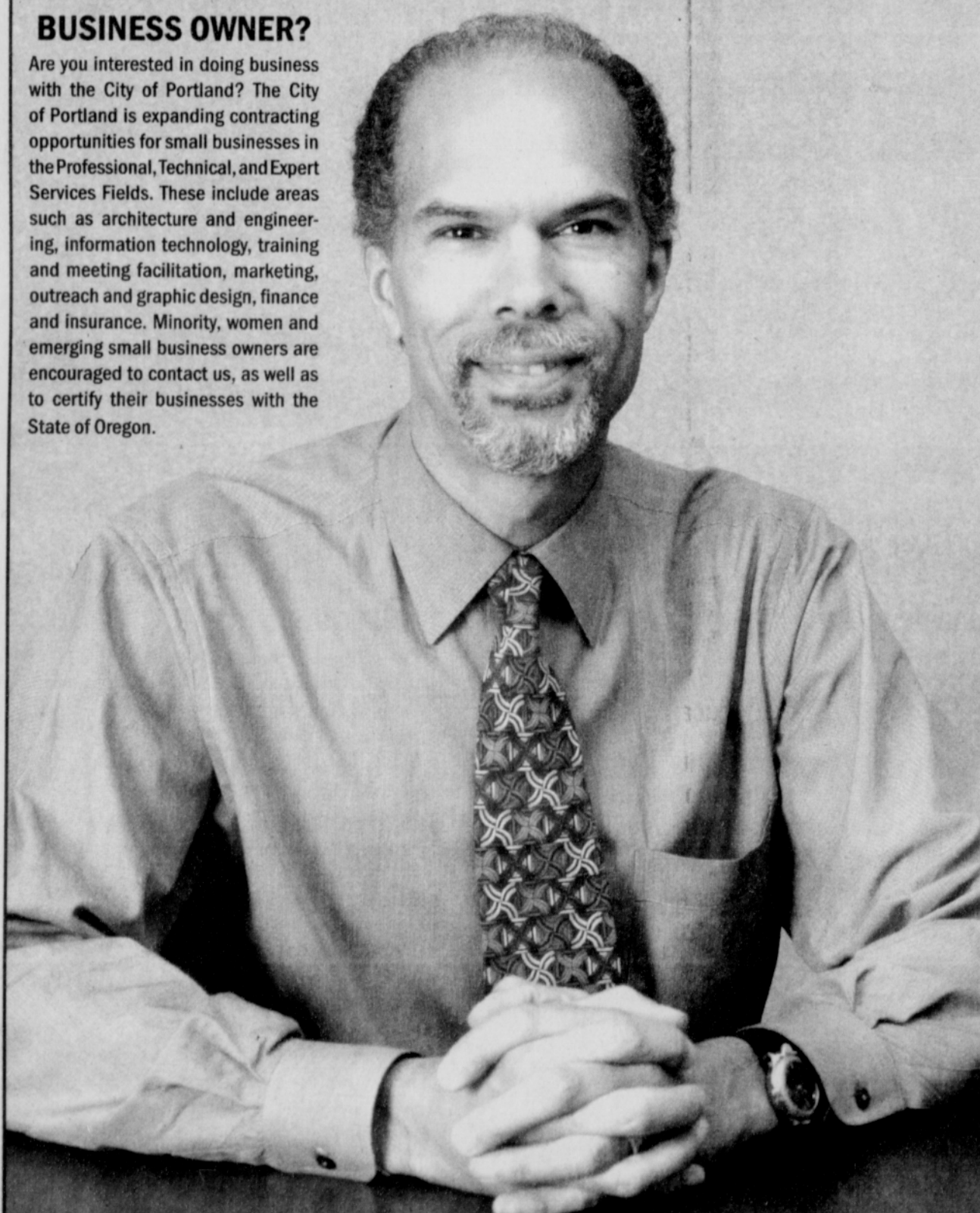
Tim Eriksen performs Saturday at Mississippi Studios.



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**Three Leg Torso and Brothers of the Baladi** -- A concert at McMenamin's Kennedy School, 5736 N.E. 33rd Ave., brings whirling tangos and belly dances to the stage on March 31 at 7 p.m. Admission for the all ages show is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 13.

**"Guns, Germs and Steel"** -- The Jefferson High School Multicultural Film Festival will screen the documentary "Guns, Germs and Steel" covering the history of humanity, from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Monday, April 3, at Jefferson, 5210 N. Kerby, room D12. Admission is free.

**Jazz Ensemble** -- A free concert at University of Portland's Buckley Center Auditorium in north Portland will feature traditional, contemporary, formal and improvisatory music on Wednesday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 503-943-7228.

**Gladys Knight** -- Music legend Gladys Knight will perform two shows at 8 p.m., April 7 and 8, at Chinook Winds Casino Resort in Lincoln City. Tickets are \$30 to \$50 and are available by calling 1-888-MAIN-ACT or 541-996-5775.

**Hip Chicks Benefit** -- A Friday, April 7 benefit for In Other Words and Rock Power for Girls features three bands -- Cocks in the Henhouse, Excuse Me Sir and Little Sue, plus fire dancing and puppets. The festivities take place at Hip Chicks, 4510 S.E. 23rd Ave. All ages welcome; tickets are \$5 to \$50 sliding scale.

**Ice Cube Coming** -- Notorious gangsta rapper Ice Cube comes to the Roseland Theater on Friday, April 28 at 8 p.m. Tickets for the all ages show are \$30 advance and \$35 at the door, plus service fees, available at [TicketsWest.com](http://TicketsWest.com) or 503-224-8499.

**Cirque Du Soleil** -- Nine additional performances from April 19 through 23 have been added to the Portland engagement of Varekai. Performances are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.; Sundays at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. General public tickets are \$24.50 to \$70 and are available by calling the Admission Network at 1-800-678-5440 or

## ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

[cirquedusoleil.com](http://cirquedusoleil.com).



Bugsy Malone Jr.

**Bugsy Malone Jr.** -- A young mob of prohibition-era gangsters recreate the 1920 film classic at the Northwest Children's Theater. Performances are Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. through April 18 at the NW Neighborhood Cultural Center, 1819 NW Everett St. Special Spring Break matinees March 28-31 at 2 p.m. For tickets call 503-222-4480 or visit [www.nwcts.org](http://www.nwcts.org).

**Ardiente Paciencia (Burning Patience)** -- The all-Spanish language Bellas Artes Production comes to the Milagro Theatre, 525 SE Stark St. Opening night is Friday, April 7, and continues through April 29, on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. English supertitles at Thursday and Sunday performances. Tickets are \$13 to \$18 and can be purchased at the box office, 503-236-7253 or [www.milagro.org](http://www.milagro.org).



Ardiente Paciencia

**"Crowns"** -- A play exploring the relationship between black women and the hats they wear. Continues through April 9 at Portland Center for the Performing Arts Newmark Theatre, 1111 SW Broadway. Tickets are \$15 to \$56, and can be purchased at the box office or by calling 503-274-6588.

**Murder In Showbiz** -- "Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" pokes fun at Hollywood thrillers during the genre's heyday in the 1930s and 1940s. The mix up of murder, madness and mayhem is now playing through April 9, on Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. at the Lakewood Center for the Arts, 368 State St. in Lake Oswego. Tickets are \$24 for adults and \$22 for students and seniors, available at the Lakewood Theatre box office at 503-635-3901 or [www.lakewood-center.org](http://www.lakewood-center.org).

**Time to Jam** -- Jam Night, Portland's ever-popular comedy and variety show is at Christian Performing Arts Center, 8131 N. Denver Ave. Shows continue every Friday night starting at 9 p.m. with dinner by Mondemaj Catering next door to the show at 6:30 and 7:30 p.m.