

Rockin' Soul

Hall and Oates to play Portland

BY SARAH BLOUNT
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Don't call it a comeback when Darryl Hall and John Oates perform in Portland next week.

Sure, the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall will be chalk full of nostalgic energy for songs of the 1970s like "She's Gone" and "Sara Smile," but the duo has been constantly at work since breaking onto the scene.

"We've never pretended to retire," Oates told The Portland Observer. "It's a tour that never ends."

Oates met Hall as a fellow musician and student at Temple University in the 1960s.

Their first success was on Philly's R&B stations.

Their 1973 release "Abandoned Luncheonette" featuring "She's Gone" did well on college radio. But in what Oates calls a weird quirk of fate, their first Top-40 hit "Sara Smile" broke out on a Toledo, Ohio R&B station.

"R&B radio paved the way to our success," Oates noted. "And I think that over the years we were one of the first bands, especially being white, that crossed over."

The musical era of the 1960s was a time when artists crossed racial lines and genres.

"When you look at 1960s playbills you have Curtis Mayfield, Jimi Hendrix, the Rolling Stones, and Staple Singers — all on the same bill," Oates said. "People were digging music, opening their ears to different sounds and styles."

In the mid 1970s, he said, radio began to spin off other stations that aired exclusive genres.

"That encouraged fragmentation and segregation," he noted.

At one point Hall and Oates' sound was labeled as "Blue Eyed Soul," a description of R&B as performed by white artists.

Oates said he doesn't appreciate such the term, which was



Hall and Oates play Portland on Wednesday, Aug. 29 at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall.

coined in the 1960s when groups like The Righteous Brothers began to reflect the expressive Motown sound.

"I don't think soul is domain of eye color," he said. "Everyone has

soul; if it's music that reaches the soul and touches the listener, then it is soulful."

Oates said he and Hall created their own label: "rockin' soul."

"It's R&B with rock and folk

sensibility," he said.

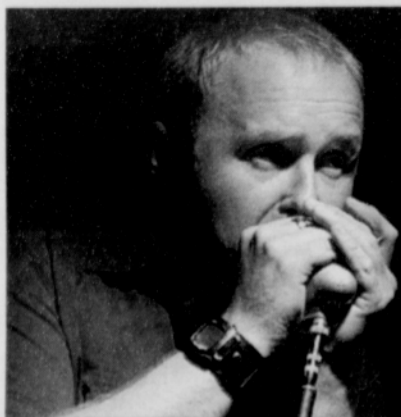
Hall and Oates will perform Wednesday, Aug. 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall.

For more information, visit ticketmaster.com.

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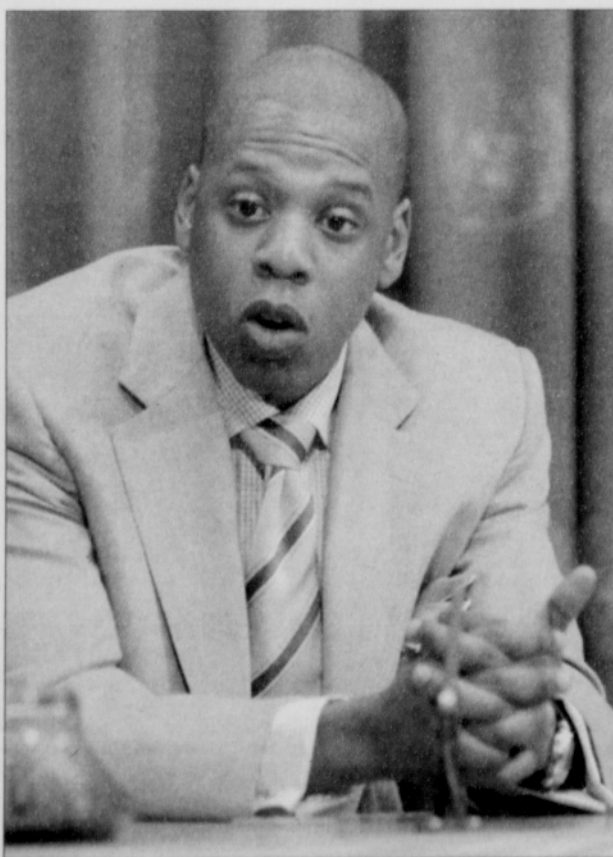
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Jay-Z is World's Richest Rapper



Jay-Z regularly appears at business meetings.

(AP) -- Jay-Z wins all around, says Forbes.com. He's got Beyonce on his arm — and more millions than 50 Cent and Diddy.

The rap icon, aka Shawn Carter, is No. 1 on the site's list of "Hip-Hop Cash Kings," based solely on 2006 income. He banked an estimated \$34 million, Forbes.com said Thursday.

Jay-Z, president and CEO of Def Jam Recordings, released his 11th studio album, "Kingdom Come," which sold around 2 million copies. Jay-Z, 37, is also part owner of the New Jersey Nets and has endorsement deals with Budweiser, Hewlett-Packard and General Motors.

Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson ranks second with an estimated \$32 million. The 31-year-old rapper-businessman oversees his G-Unit record label, clothing line, ring tones and other enterprises, and has sold more than 11 million albums. His latest record, "Curtis," is due out Sept. 11.

Diddy (real name: Sean Combs) placed third with an estimated \$28 million. A fashion plate, he has a clothing line, Sean John, and heads Bad Boy Worldwide Entertainment and its record label. Diddy, 37, is also host of MTV's "Making the Band" series.