

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Rap Star Soothes Critique with Success

T-Pain calls new album best ever

(AP)—T-Pain knows that whatever he does, including his latest album, "rEVOLVER," which he calls the best record he's ever done, there will be people who will just dismiss him as that Auto-Tune guy.

It doesn't bother him though. While it may be a blow to his ego, he soothes the slams with his ever-hearty laugh—and a glance at his checkbook.

"Say what you wanna say—I'm still rich," he said, chuckling while sitting in his tour bus. "It's not going to change anything."

Indeed, nothing seems to have derailed the 27-year-old singer and producer and his hit-making magic since he made his debut with songs like "I'm Sprung" and "I'm N Luv (Wit a Stripper)" in 2005. Those songs started a platinum-chain reaction of hits, including "Buy U a Drank," "Can't Believe It" and "Good Life" with Kanye West, which earned him one of his two Grammy Awards.

His reliance on Auto-Tune, the vocal aide that gives a computerized effect to his voice, became his signature sound. Its use grew so ubiquitous with other acts that it sparked a backlash. Jay-Z famously declared "D.O.A. (Death of Auto-Tune)," but it still thrives. In fact, T-Pain's app that lets people add that effect to their voice is a popular one.

Speaking last month on the night of his final concert as the opening act for Chris Brown's "F.A.M.E." tour, T-Pain was weary as he waited for his moment onstage. But through laughs, he had enough energy to talk about his latest album, his critics and



T-Pain performs at last year's Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

the truth in his music.

AP: Have you ever considered not using Auto-Tune because of all the criticism?

T-Pain: No. It made me do it more, just to annoy the hell out of people (laughs). ... It made me realize that when I don't use it, people don't pay attention to them songs. I've got a song on every album, two songs as a matter of fact on every album without Auto-Tune, and that's the song that nobody talks about. It's weird.

AP: How have you grown performing in the spotlight, dealing with criticism?

T-Pain: Most of the blogs and stuff, it's just their opinion. I can just go on Twitter and say, "Hey guys, how did I do tonight?" (Laughs.) That's what I look to, I look to the people who actually came there for a concert, and not somebody who came there looking for some bad stuff to say.

AP: Does this record represent a different T-Pain?

T-Pain: It's a really different T-Pain. It's a more confident T-Pain on the album, but I'm like scared. I don't know what to do. I don't know how this is gonna work out. This album is really good, though.

AP: If you were to go back and look at any bad reviews, would you agree with them?

T-Pain: No. No. That's just how I express myself. That's what music was created for; music was created for people to express themselves.

Multicultural Film Festival
Every 2nd Tuesday Each Month

Boss Hogg Christmas Tree Lot



XMAS TREES

Any Doug Fir 5-7 ft. \$20.00

Any Nobel Fir 5-7 ft. \$30.00

Any Grand Fir 5-7 ft. \$30.00

6500 NE MLK Jr. Blvd.

On the corner of: MLK Jr. & Rosa Park

Confessions of a Comic



Las Vegas comedian and Portland native Rissa Riss, also known as Ya Gyrl, brings her Confessions of a Comic show to the Grand Café, 832 S.E. Grand Ave., on Thursday, Dec. 22 at 9 p.m. The 21-and-over show will be hosted by Mr. Connected and include a live performance by Mighty. Riss has performed on Real Life, BET and Comedy Central. She has performed in Las Vegas for the past 5 years.

TERRY FAMILY FUNERAL HOME

2337 N. Williams Ave.
Portland, Or 97227
503-249-1788

We make the service personal,
You make the tribute personal.

Every time we arrange a personalized funeral service, we take special pride going the extra mile. With our online Memorial Obituary, now we can do even more. Friends and family can find out service information, view photos, read obituary, order flowers and leave personal messages of condolences from anywhere, anytime.

Simply go to our website.

www.terryfamilyfuneralhome.com

"Dedicated to providing excellent service and superior care of your loved one"

Dwight A. Terry
Oregon License CO-3644
Amy S. Terry
Oregon License FS-0395

