

**IN FOCUS**

by Alice Wilson

There's summer fun in the city and entertainment is at an all time high.

The fabulous O'Jays just completed their stay at Caesars Palace Circus Maximus, the showroom of the 'stars.' They were in their element.

**LORETTA HOLLOWAY**

I caught the lady with the pazaz, Ms. Holloway - an exciting act. The unique song stylist has a repertoire of songs that is incredible. Her delivery is well focused. We have watched her work through the years and the lady really captures her



Loretta Holloway

The popular group has shown the world that they have staying power, and put their best foot forward in their exciting performance. It is a little known fact that the O'Jays have been together since the late 50s, singing first as a gospel group and afterwards, making their transition to R&B in the 60s. However, their popularity peaked in 1972 with their tremendously popular hit "Back Stabbers."

In 1972 I was a rookie writer and was asked to do an interview with this upcoming group. It was exciting for me, and of course, a memorable experience. I have watched their growth (and predicted it). It is still a pleasure to watch them perform today. The energy level is still high, the voices seem mellow with time (like a fine wine), and their experience has brought them to the successful popularity that they enjoy today.

I have not had the pleasure of hearing their latest album release, "Serious," but the lead singer LeVert says, "I think this album is the most positive and creative thing we've done." He said it - I'll buy it!! The fabulous O'Jays - IN TOUGH!!

audience. She takes them up to a crescendo, then brings them softly back to their space. Her stage presence is direct and she has learned her craft well, projecting confidence and style. A truly delightful entertainer, Ms. Holloway is an international artist as well as a favorite in various hotels throughout Vegas, Tahoe and New Jersey. Ms. Loretta Holloway - a SUPER LADY!

**UP-COMING EVENT**

California Package Liquor Store Owners will host their annual convention this year at Bally's Hotel-Casino July 31 - Aug. 4. CAL-PAK always has an informative and interesting convention. This year should be no different. We are looking forward to it.

Just want to wish HAPPY BIRTHDAY to some Cancer friends (June 22 - July 21): Vocalists Ms. Dihann Carroll, Ms. Loretta Holloway and Ms. Lena Horne; TV's Alex Trebeck; Ringo Starr of the Beatles; Vocalist George Michael; and our friend Barbara Humphries. Also our brother-in-law Frank Dandridge and all of the "moon children."

Until next time....LOVE.

**Slick Rick, De La Soul, Too \$hort at T&M July 26**

When the Nitro Tour hits the stage at Thomas and Mack Center, UNLV next Wednesday night, July 26, other featured guests along with LL Cool J will be Slick Rick, De La Soul and Too \$hort.

**All About Slick Rick**

One of the most audacious debuts in the history of rap was made in the summer of 1985 by a young man billed as MC Ricky D and dubbed Slick Rick by his partner, Doug e. Fresh. The two were teamed up on the 12-inch single, "The Show" b/w "La-Di-Da-Di" (Reality Records).

"The Show" was a huge radio smash largely devoted to Doug's "human beat box" shenanigans, although it did include a brief rhyme from someone who sounded like an aristocratic English gentleman, beefing about an attempt to pick up a girl on the D-Train, then getting mistaken by her for a bowl of frosted flakes.

"La-Di-Da-Di" was even deffer but, because its lyrics were too raw for radio, success was confined to the street where, naturally, every young black kid in America felt duty-bound to learn it, word-for-word. Essentially, "La-Di-Da-Di" was the first great adventure for Slick Rick. Over the most low-tech of accompaniments (Doug provided all the beats; there were no instruments) Rick told a long, lazy story about waking up in the morning, bathing, brushing his teeth, getting dressed and hitting the street. There he runs into "Sally From the Valley." The two of them proceed to bump into her mother, who "slams the child on the hard concrete," and then makes a play for Rick! The side was remarkable for its detail, humor, cinematic clarity and movement, and freedom of expression.

Even more amazing was Rick's next trick, a disappearing act that lasted for three years. But now, as the young man himself notes on The Great Adventures Of Slick Rick, his brand new album for Jam/Columbia, "The Ruler's Back"...and none the worse for the passage of time. Indeed, if the new LP demonstrates anything, it's that none of the artists who've emerged in his absence can touch the original.

The truth is that Rick is as much a writer as a comedian, as he is a rapper, with the

nearest analogies to Great Adventures being Henry Miller's Tropic OF Cancer and Richard Pryor's That Nigger's Crazy -- although old-time rock 'n rollers may also find Rick's down home understanding of the bloody battle of the sexes reminiscent of Jimmy Soul's "If You Wanna Be Happv."

Now 23 years old, Ricky Walters was born to Jamaican parents in South Wimbledon, London and raised in England for most of his first 14 years -- which explains his posh accent. He grew up listening to "hard reggae," and got into rap as an art major at New York's High School of Music & Art. It was there he formed the Kangol Crew, a 7-member posse (including two co-eds) in which he and future rap star Dana Dane were featured. He graduated in '83 and hooked up with Doug E. Fresh a year or so later, after defeating the legendary Cold Crush Brothers in a rap contest in the Bronx.

Rick still lives in the North Bronx where he recorded most of Great Adventures in his basement studio with his homeboy, DJ Vance Wright, his partner since tenth grade.

As far as where he's been the last three years, the mysterious Mr. Slick Rick will only say: "I took a nice long vacation 'cause I knew the next time out there'd be no turning back."

**Word On De La Soul**

It took us a time, but the crew is here. The brothers from the soul. We must insist that you should not read on if you love roses, because there's only enough room for the D.A.I.S.Y.--(the inner sound y'all).

Now you're dealing with an odd number consisting of POSDNUOS (Plug One), a twiggler love truly above sync; TRUGOY THE DOVE (Plug Two), a yogurt eating pioneer of a phrase called talk. Last but not least, PACE MASTER MASE (Plug three) a technician who friends for Ketchup, preferably Heinz.

For three years, the soul had waited patiently to help you activate a dance, but the problem was getting enough pull in our corner to help us get noticed. \*Should we get help from the kings and queen who live in Queens? We figured no; instead we dealt with the prince of Strong Island who plays in a band called STET. Could his ear accept the music from the D.A.I.S.Y.? Of course. He was conceived in the Soul and also showed pride in residing in Strong Island. LIKE WE DO!

Is being the best MC's a main drive for POS and DOVE? Of course not. We are public speakers, not M.C.'s. Is being the best D.J. a main drive for MASE? Of course not. He's a P.A.

**LIBRARY**

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allow them to learn about photography and other art forms," said Johnson. "I, along with other guest speakers I will schedule, will be using books, tapes, slides, photographers, artists and teachers to present the information."

system, not a D.J. Do we The Soul, wish to be like BOOGIE DOWN PRODUCTION, PUBLIC ENEMY, or STETSASONIC, which are groups that consist of Public Speakers & P.A. systems we admire? No, we are a fleet genuflecting a GLOW. We will lead OUR OWN PATH! The soul will gladly listen and most definately direct!

People are starving for creativity. We people, starve no more...Hop on down to your record store and order the SOUL...DE LA, that is. Some may reject it at first because of being used to the same worn out style. Some might even say they don't like it. That's legitimate, because that's their \*Freedom of Speak\*. We don't want you to classify us, as dope, this group is strictly Dan Stukie, but if you classify us as New Jacks, that's Cool, because Jack can be plugged into lines one and two.

People are you ready for this?

**LL COOL J**

**WORLD TOUR 89-90**

**SPECIAL GUESTS**

**and**

**TOO \$HORT**

**JULY 26, 7 P.M.**

**THOMAS & MACK CENTER**

**ALL TICKETS \$16**

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