

# JON LUCIEN: AT ONE WITH MOTHER NATURE

By Antoinette Dykes

On a sedate Monday morning, I call up Jon Lucien, the maestro of quiet storm music, at his home in Puerto Rico. A native of nearby St. Croix in the Virgin Islands, his voice is as cool and laid back as his mellifluous songs. Hearing the roaring ocean in the background makes

it understandable where he gets his inspiration to write such soothing, natural melodies. It's as if he's at one with nature. So much so, he jokes that to capture his real essence I should hop on a plane, drop my feet in the blue Atlantic and conduct the interview in person.

Lucien's current release,

entitled *Mother Nature's Son*, exemplifies his love for nature and music. On this Top 10 Contemporary Jazz charter Lucien intertwined the two and creates some of the coolest sounding jazz, Brazilian and R&B melodies on the scene today. "Making this album was a very spiritual experience for me," Lucien says. "It's like no matter what your flavor is, I've got something for you."

Something for you he has, from the R&B/pop balladry of "Special Part Of Me" (a favorite on quiet storm radio formats nationwide) to the jazzy, seductive sounds of "How About You" and "But Beautiful," both of which feature string and horn arrangements that add an incomparable seasoning to Lucien's voice.

"I always loved working with strings and horns," he says, "but

at a certain point it was no longer in vogue to do that. Fortunately music is going back to being real so I decided to return to where I started on these two songs because it's a part of me I've ignored for too long now."

Jon Lucien's music is globally accepted and transcends cultures because, as he put it, "it makes you feel, it makes you react." With songs like "Luna Mi Luna," his first ever sung in Spanish, Lucien further broadens his ethnic horizons. "It's not like I'm treading on unfamiliar territory. My roots span from New Orleans to the Caribbean, African to Spanish. My music represents all people of color. It fits everywhere! It is black music."

Staying in touch with his roots is something that Lucien speaks a lot about. In fact, it's his fierce ethnic pride that makes him feel

African-Americans are being shortchanged culturally. "Don't get me wrong," he says, "I love hip-hop and funk, but people should not be fed just one kind of diet. Music is a rainbow."

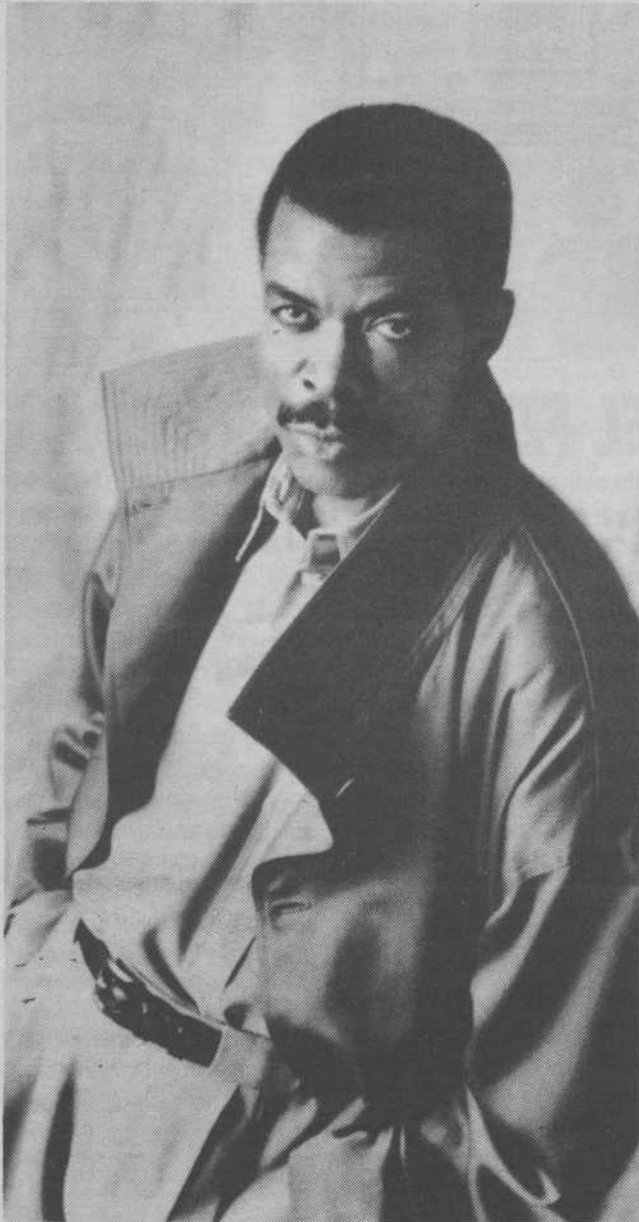
A creator of music that pulsates with rhythm, passion and romance, Lucien says, "who I feel that I am, I express totally in the music. I dream these sounds. This is how I speak."

Lucien is truly an artist, as his musical talents range from writing to playing several instruments (electric and acoustic bass, guitar, piano and various percussions). Beginning his musical journey as a mere seven year old, he has recorded with such artists as Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter, Dianne Reeves, Phyllis Hyman, Tania Maria and Dave Grusin.

Lucien, being a very spiritual

person, says, "my talents are a gift from the Lord. Mother Nature's Son, for example was born out of a spiritual awakening of sorts. I had an incredible urge to write something that would fulfill me not just creatively and artistically, but spiritually as well."

The song, "Mother Nature's Son," sits close to Lucien's heart as it's socially conscious message about the plight of the rainforests and the ecology could just as easily address the issues of urban America. "People of the inner city are intelligent. It's dangerous for the powers-that-be to assume that if exposed to the full spectrum of black music, African-Americans would not understand or appreciate our many black cultures. If given the opportunity they too would see and feel what I see and feel, that we are all Mother Nature's Sons.



JON LUCIEN

## GREAT MOMENTS

(Continued from Page 18)

straight out of science fantasy - *The Search for China's Dinosaurs*, *The Magic of Special Effects* and spectacular coverage of the almost unbelievable exploits of the space program.

Dedicating a radio telescope that will search for signs of extraterrestrial intelligence in *Is Anybody Out There?*, movie director Steven Spielberg declares: "I've benefited so much from science fiction; I just thought it was time to get involved in science reality."

The segment on "Real Life/Real People" focuses on the ordinary and extraordinary people whose lives have been forever changed by science. These include trainers and athletes from *Can Science Build a Champion Athlete?*, exhausted, exhilarated medical students on *So You Want to be a Doctor?*, construction workers with the

entire city at their feet in *Sky-scraper!*, and the daredevil *Hellfighters of Kuwait*.

The segment on "Mystery Stories" features some of the most popular NOVA footage ever broadcast, from the investigation of *The Case of the Bermuda Triangle* to the documenting of

human conception, development and birth in *The Miracle of Life*.

"Action and Adventure" wraps up "Great Moments from NOVA," converting not only volcanoes and hurricanes, but also tornadoes, beached whales, fighter planes, pedal planes, (See *Great Moments*, Page 27)

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## THE CCSN TO HOLD OPEN AUDITIONS FOR "A CHORUS LINE"

The Community College of Southern Nevada and the A.S.C.C. will hold open auditions for the musical *A Chorus Line*, originally directed and choreographed by Michael Bennett. The musical will be one of the opening events for the 500-seat theater at the Cheyenne campus.

Auditions will take in the CCSN Theater, 3200 E. Cheyenne Ave., Friday, December 3, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, December 4, at 3 p.m. Anyone wishing to audition should prepare a one to two minute, up-tempo, musical selection, bring a photo and resume, and wear dance clothes. An accompanist will be provided. No prepared audition monologues will be heard, there will be cold readings only.

"A Chorus Line takes the audience through the final grueling audition run by the director, Zach, for a new Broadway musical," according to James Kirkwood and Nicholas Dante, authors of the book on which the musical is based.

Rehearsals will start in early December with a break for the Christmas holidays. The production, which is co-directed by Garold Gardner and Robert D. Dunkerly, will open in mid-February. Vocal direction will be by Ross Saarela and musical di-

rection by Dick McGee will feature a 14 piece orchestra.

As with all CCSN theater auditions, women and minori-

ties are encouraged to audition. Non-traditional casting will be considered. For Further information call 644-PLAY.

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