

“Soul Deep: The Story Of Black Popular Music” Airs Exclusively On VH1 Monday June 4



Photo Credit: © columbia records



Photo Credit: © Motown records

NEW YORK, NY, June 1, 2007 “ Soul music has been the soundtrack to some of the most extraordinary social, political and cultural shifts of the second half of the 20th Century. Together with the Civil Rights movement, it challenged white hegemony, helped break down segregation and encouraged the fight for racial equality. Soul music is now a billion dollar industry with R&B and hip-hop dominating the music charts. As part of their month-long celebration of Black Music Month in June, VH1 SOUL will premiere the BBC original documentary, “SOUL DEEP: The Story of Black Popular Music.” “SOUL DEEP” is the story of a musical genre that resonates all over the world because it has managed to strike that one chord that all of humanity shares . . . soul.

The six-part foot-stomping series, “SOUL DEEP” will make its U.S. premiere on Monday, June 4 through Friday, June 8 exclusively on VH1 SOUL at 9PM ET/PT, with episodes 5 and 6 premiering back-to-back on Friday, June 8. Through a combination of rare archival footage, over 100 contemporary and never-seen-before interviews, each episode of “SOUL DEEP” explores a different era of the evolution of “soul music” from the creation of R&B, via gospel, southern soul,

Motown, funk and hip-hop soul through the words and performances of its greatest artists, producers, musicians and commentators.

The episode lineup for "SOUL DEEP" on VH1 SOUL is as follows (as you will see episodes five and six air back-to-back on Friday, June 8):

EPISODE 1: "The Birth of Soul" – In a never-seen-before BBC interview with Ray Charles, he reveals how his innovations first brought soul to a wider audience. The term "R&B," which means "rhythm" and "blues," was coined by Billboard Magazine journalist Jerry Wexler after he was asked by his editor to find an alternative for the label "race music." After many years touring on the "chitlin circuit" (a network of black clubs and bars) with artists like Ruth Brown, Ray Charles finally created his own style by unifying the sexually-charged music of the dance floor with the spiritually-charged sounds of the church hall. Life was hard and sometimes dangerous for black musicians in a segregated society. This episode premieres on Monday, June 4 at 9PM*.

EPISODE 2: "The Gospel Highway" – Gospel singer Sam Cooke changed pop music forever and set the standard for every artist that followed him. This episode looks at the world of black music before and after that revolutionary moment in 1957 when Cooke went pop. Tragically, Cooke was killed in 1964 at the prime of his career. Gone, but not forgotten, Cooke bequeathed an extraordinary legacy, inspiring a myriad of black artists from Motown's Berry Gordy to Otis Redding and Aretha Franklin. This episode premieres on Tuesday, June 5 at 9PM*.

EPISODE 3: "The Sound Of Young America" – Motown changed the landscape of music, rewrote the rule book and created the sound of young America, which appealed to whites as much as to blacks. Crossover soul was the vision of Motown's founder –

Svengali figure Berry Gordy. Reflecting the optimism of the early 60s and the promise of integration, Gordy's artists were coached, groomed and targeted at the lucrative white audience. This episode premieres on Wednesday, June 6 at 9PM*.

EPISODE 4: "Southern Soul" – In the summer of 1967, Otis Redding performed in front of a 200,000-strong, mainly white, crowd at the Monterey Pop Festival. Five years after walking into Stax Records studio in Memphis as an unknown singer, he was now breaking into the mass white market and seducing its counter culture without diluting his sound. This episode follows both Redding's rise, as he became the embodiment of 60s soul music, and that of Stax Records as it crossed the racial divide at a time of segregation. This episode premieres on Thursday, June 7 at 9PM*.

EPISODE 5: "Ain't It Funky" – The tough, urban syncopated rhythms of funk were the soundtrack to the riots and revolutions of the late 60s and early 70s. This episode traces the roots of funk from James Brown's seminal "Papa's Got A Brand New Bag" to the crazy psychedelia of George Clinton. This episode premieres on Friday, June 8 at 8PM*.

EPISODE 6: "From Ghetto To Fabulous" – In a never-seen before interview, Mary J. Blige, the queen of hip-hop soul, speaks candidly about her journey from ghetto to fabulous. Her music represents the fusion of R&B and hip-hop and completes the journey that started 50 years ago with the emergence of the early soul sounds of Ray Charles and ends with black R&B artists' domination of the charts today. The extraordinary story of the unstoppable rise of urban R&B – with its diamond-dripping darlings of the media and high profile celebrity artists is traced back to the housing projects in Yonkers in the 80s where Mary J. Blige began. R&B, with its roots in soul music which has been evolving over the last 50 years, has moved from ghetto to ghetto-fabulous to simply fabulous. This episode premieres on Friday, June 8 at 9PM*.

“SOUL DEEP: The Story of Black Popular Music” is only part of the Black Music Month celebration on VH1 Soul. In addition to the “SOUL DEEP” documentary, VH1 Soul and Essence will join forces for the first time to commemorate Black Music Month to promote the upcoming Essence Music Festival. Beginning on June 1st, VH1 Soul will be creating a special month of programming and promotions celebrating Black Music Month with more than 50 hours long-form programming.

Bill Laswell's supergroup METHOD OF DEFIANCE



Bill Laswell's super group METHOD OF DEFIANCE spawns highly ambitious new project entitled INAMORATA. This compositional masterpiece intertwines and weaves the best electronica artists with the most sublime virtuoso musicians on the planet. It's a riveting and refreshing concept album that's the brainchild and creation of Mr. Bill Laswell who is best known for his avant garde work and repertoire that pushes the envelope. He's also the master behind Axiom Records.

INAMORATA blends some of the most magnificent sounds of the new era with the Miles Davis era of electronic fusion. The project combines drum n bass/electronica with virtuoso musicians. Artists such as Herbie Hancock, John Zorn and the Masada Strings, to Buckethead, Pharaoh Sanders, Paradox, Bernie Worrell, Karsh Kale, Toshinori Kondo, Submerged, Outrage, and others.

12 beat smiths were commissioned from the top tiers of drum n bass to create 12 phenomenal tracks.

Never before has a project of this magnitude and vision come together in quite this shape, sound and color.

It's adventurous in production, Dynamic in vision and overall a cutting edge TOUR DE FORCE!

This is the 2nd album from Method of Defiance. Produced and Arranged by Bill Laswell. It's released on the highly reputable Ohm Resistance which is considered one of the best drum n bass record companies in the industry.

Herb Alpert's "Rise" and The Notorious B.I.G.'s "Hypnotize"



LOS ANGELES , CA – Shout! Factory, in partnership with music legend Herb Alpert, expands the label's historic Herb Alpert Signature Series reissue program with the fully restored and remastered release of Alpert's disco-infused 1979 masterpiece, RISE.

Alpert's artistic comeback started with the release of "Rise," a down-tempo dance single departing from Alpert's signature Tijuana Brass sound. It climbed to number one on the Billboard charts and became the biggest hit of his career. Met with such success, Alpert and his recording team created an entire album around the new, laidback disco sounds of the single and RISE – the album was born, topping the charts and revitalizing Alpert's already decades-long career.

Every album in the Herb Alpert Signature Series has been meticulously remastered under Alpert's personal supervision, and the expanded CD booklets include new liner notes with reflections from Alpert himself. The 11 previous releases in the series include Whipped Cream & Other Delights, The Lonely Bull, Going Places, rarities collection Lost Treasures and many more. RISE joins the Herb Alpert Signature Series on CD May 29, 2007 with two previously unreleased tracks, for the suggested list price of \$13.98.

Herb Alpert and Jerry Moss, co-founders of A&M Records, will be honored with the President's Merit Award by the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences for their contributions to popular music. The ceremony will take place at a post-Grammy® reception on February 11, 2006 at the Los Angeles Convention Center .

ABOUT HERB ALPERT

Herb Alpert's celebrated career in music began over four decades ago, with early and extraordinary successes including his 1958 co-write, with Lou Adler and Sam Cooke, of the evergreen hit "Wonderful World." Today, 75 million+ in record sales down the road, Alpert's versatile talent is legendary. His myriad credits encompass triumphs as a superstar trumpeter and bandleader, label founder, producer, composer, arranger and vocalist; the latter, most notably for his 1968 #1 single with the now-classic track "This Guy's In Love With You," which was also the first #1 hit for the songwriting team of Burt Bacharach and Hal David. Among Alpert's many music awards garnered over the years are seven GRAMMYs®, including Record of the Year/Best Instrumental Performance (Non-Jazz) for the '65 Herb Alpert & The Tijuana Brass smash "A Taste Of Honey," as well as Best Pop Instrumental Performance wins for the 1966 TJB hit "What Now My Love" and Herb's 1979 solo masterpiece "Rise." Alpert has also been honored with the prized GRAMMY Trustees Award for Lifetime Achievement, which he and longtime music

business partner Jerry Moss received jointly in 1997.

In 1962, Alpert and Moss co-founded A&M Records, long the world's leading and largest independently owned record label. The company was revered internationally for its artist-driven agenda, and acts that over several decades included The Police, Sting, Janet Jackson, Joe Jackson, The Brothers Johnson, Joe Cocker, Bryan Adams, Soundgarden, Supertramp,, Sergio Mendes and Brasil 66, Cat Stevens, The Carpenters, Sheryl Crow, Barry White and Quincy Jones.

In many ways, though, in addition to being one of its founding fathers, Alpert was A&M's signature artist. Immediately after forming the label, he introduced the Tijuana Brass phenomenon, which propelled him, and the A&M name, to global fame. By putting the trumpet out front, Alpert revolutionized the instrument as a pop radio staple with a trademark sound fusing Latin influences, Jazz instincts, and unerring pop sensibilities.

Official Site:

[Home](#)

The Return of Strictly Rhythm Records!!



After a five year hiatus the label that defined house music throughout the 1990s announces its return to the dance music

community with a track forecast to have huge crossover success – Todd Terry All Stars feat Tara McDonald 'Get Down', a cool vocal house track co written with house music heavy weights Kenny Dope, DJ Sneak and Terry Hunter. It features the talents of Tara McDonald, the voice of Armand Van Helden's 'My My My' and Axwell's 'Feel the Vibe'. Already championed by BBC Radio 1's Pete Tong, with two successive week's plays and further initial support by Radio 1Xtra's Aaron Ross. Already an underground club hit due to frequent spins from international Dj's including Dimitri from Paris and Roger Sanchez, this record is sure to grow from the grass roots upward. That is not all. Since Strictly first announced its re-launch in Feb 07 and to date has already notched up over 30,000 downloads of its back catalogue. Now the label switches attention towards brand new productions and signings. "It's not about us doing what Strictly have done, it's about us taking it to the next level," says Simon Dunmore, Strictly A & R.

Strictly's new roster now includes exciting new signings and forthcoming releases from Masters at Work, Quentin Harris, Osunlade Tiefschwarz, Mood II Swing and Grand High Priest. A dedicated website has been built and is ready to go live. www.strictly.com will provide a direct facility to download all Strictly product and will provide all the latest news, information on all new releases and exclusive interviews from classic artists like Roger Sanchez, Erick Morillo & Barbara Tucker. Other features include regular podcasts, videos and a newly designed merchandise range.

About Strictly:

Strictly Rhythm the New York label first opened its doors in 1989 and quickly gained a following among club DJs thanks to a series of high quality underground tracks by the likes of Roger Sanchez, Todd Terry and Kenny Dope. In 1994 Strictly notched up its first crossover hit with Real 2 Real's 'I Like To Move It', a feat it was to repeat throughout the rest of the decade with Wink's 'Higher State of Consciousness', Ultra

Nate's 'Free' and Wamdue Project's 'King of My Castle'. In between the hits the label provided a steady output of club tracks by a huge array of respected artists from Barbara Tucker and Masters At Work to Erick Morillo, Josh Wink, Armand Van Helden, Danny Tenaglia, David Morales and DJ Pierre. Almost every house producer of repute who was active in the 1990s is represented in the catalogue. 'I am often quoted saying that Defected aspires to be as revered as Strictly Rhythm was back in the day' says Dunmore. 'The label was the starting point for anybody who is anybody in today's scene, be it as a producer, a dj or a collector; Strictly Rhythm has left on them an indelible mark'.

www.strictly.com

www.myspace.com/strictlyrhythmrecords