

Media Questions Of The Week

Essence Festival organizers acknowledge that not only are ticket sales down this year, but some vendors are opting out.

<https://t.co/PHb2R8Qggy> pic.twitter.com/izehav6Nr5

– FOX 8 New Orleans (@FOX8NOLA) [July 3, 2025](#)

Will the Essence Festival survive new leadership and changing times?



How much time will Diddy be sentenced to after beating RICO charges and being convicted on two counts of transportation to engage in prostitution?

Third Man Books Reissues Ben Edmonds' Marvin Gaye: What's Going On And The Last Days Of The Motown Sound

Ben Edmonds
Marvin
Gaye:



What's
Going On?
and the Last Days of the
Motown Sound

Third Man Books has reissued Ben Edmonds' *Marvin Gaye: What's Going On and the Last Days Of The Motown Sound*. Edmonds' book is a study of Marvin Gaye's landmark album, *What's Going On*, that came out in 1971. Gaye famously fought with Motown founder Berry Gordy Jr. to release the politically conscious album that was a response to the Vietnam War, drug addiction, and poverty. Renaldo "Obie" Benson of the The Four Tops told Edmonds how he witnessed anti-war protesters being attacked at Berkeley's People's Park and how his conversation about it with songwriter Al Cleveland led to the creation of the single, "What's Going On." Benson offered the song to his bandmates, who rejected it on the grounds that it was a protest song. Gaye accepted Benson's suggestion that he sing it and he added his own elements to the song and recorded it with famed Motown musicians The Funk Brothers. Edmonds' book was originally published in 2001 and he explained in his introduction the purpose of revisiting *What's Going On*.

"This is not simply about a singer and a record album. It is the story of an idea, formed out of the mixed ethers of social anger and spiritual longing, that Marvin Gaye articulated with a cast of brilliant accomplices and fought to get recorded and released. From that idea, and with that help, and out of that struggle, something was fashioned that continues to touch souls more profoundly than even its creator could have imagined."

Marvin Gaye: What's Going On and the Last Days Of The Motown Sound is available from [Third Man Books](#) and physical and online booksellers.

LA Carnival on the Shaw Honors Juneteenth and Celebrates Caribbean American Heritage Month with Third Annual Event



"LA Carnival on the Shaw" returns to the community for the third year, honoring Juneteenth and celebrating Caribbean American Heritage Month. Produced by Marikel International, the music, masquerades and multicultural merriment will parade along Crenshaw Blvd., Sunday, June 29th, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Los Angeles– "LA Carnival on the Shaw" returns to the community for the third year, honoring Juneteenth and celebrating Caribbean American Heritage Month. Produced by Marikel International and Mandrill World

Music, the multicultural merriment of music, dance, and masquerades will parade along Crenshaw Blvd. on Sunday, June 29th, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The initiative was launched in 2023 as a bold catalyst to engage, activate, and revitalize businesses on Crenshaw, affectionately known as 'The Shaw.' Select merchants along the parade route will add their special flavor to the festivities by hosting 'Carnival Vibe Spots' in front of or inside their establishments. The first Vibe Spot will be an 'Assembly Lime/Fiesta' from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Obama Blvd. as revelers, masqueraders, drummers, and DJs set the carnival tone. At 6:00 p.m. the parade will extend parallel to the Metro K-Line into Liberation Plaza in Leimert Park. "LA Carnival on the Shaw" is free and open to all.

The roster of exciting carnival masqueraders includes Danza Azteca, LA Success Steel Orchestra, Peace Players Youth Drummers, the spectacular group Ajudisgua, Ko's Korean Drum and Dance, Samba N' Motion, and the iconic 100 Drums, featuring international master drummers from the Leimert Park Drum Community! This vivacious gathering of costumed revelers, entrepreneurs, artisans, and musicians supported by 'Carnival Vibe Spots' will spread peace, love, and positive vibes along Crenshaw.

Then, as daylight simmers to night, 100 beautiful flags will infuse the evening with magic, rhythm, and a timely call for peace and community healing. The procession culminates with a grand drum circle in Liberation Plaza, at 4349 Crenshaw Blvd., Leimert Park. And to keep the party going, head to 'The District' at 3888 Crenshaw Blvd. for the Official Vibe Spot Extravaganza that closes out LA Carnival on the Shaw, 2025.



“It’s so important to bring our communities together during these challenging times. Los Angeles Carnival has always been diverse, and this year is no different. Cultural inclusivity is what brings joy and healing and makes our city so great!” expresses Los Angeles Carnival Founder, Marie Kellier. “This year’s gathering of participants will reflect a cross-section of traditions in costume, art, dance, and music for the entire family to enjoy. Los Angeles is an incubator for international creativity and Los Angeles Carnival is a proud reflection of that legacy. LA Carnival on the Shaw is being designed to evolve into a monthly arts, entertainment, and business experience, preparing our Crenshaw community for the LA28 Games and Cultural Olympiad.”

Since 1998 Los Angeles Carnival has brought together a multigenerational mix of Caribbean immigrants and friends and pioneered the longest-running Caribbean carnival in Southern California. Rooted in festival and carnival arts of the region, the event celebrates Caribbean heritage and integrates the hopes, values, and creativity of Los Angeles itself. Its mission is to bring innovation to Caribbean cultural practices and to share the experience with a diverse cross-section of communities in Los Angeles and beyond.

For sponsorship, special events, and advertising contact the Los Angeles Carnival corporate offices at (213) 656.3663 or (213) 761.4475, or email lacarnivalarts@gmail.com.

For more details and information about attending LA Carnival on the Shaw, visit <https://www.losangelescarnival.com> or email Los Angeles Carnival at lacarnivalarts@gmail.com.

Alex Isley Returns To Tiny Desk

Alex Isley returns to Tiny Desk with a set of fan favorites and something new. She made her debut on the platform five years ago during the pandemic and today's show is her first time in the actual room. Her backup singers include Muhsinah and she brings out Masego for his part on "Good & Plenty." The 22-minute show packs in 10 songs, closing out with "Thank You For A Lovely Time" from her current *When* EP.