Questlove, Anna Fantastic & More Attend IMAX L.A. Screening Of Prince's Sign O'The Times



Questlove, Prince muse Anna Fantastic and Billboard hip-hop editor Gail Mitchell were in the crowd that attended the IMAX screening of Prince's Sign O' The Times in Los Angeles Tuesday night. Mitchell opened the event with remarks and Prince's childhood friend and estate representative Charles Spicer Jr. introduced the film. The attendees had a pre-show celebration in a room decorated in purple and they honored Prince's contributions to music and pop culture and his lasting influence. The Roots' co-founder and drummer Questlove, who also got to share the stage with Prince, was snapped with Anna Fantastic, who inspired "Pink Cashmere" and "Lemon Crush." Prince's legendary lighting designer LeRoy Bennett; actors Kingston Rumi Southwick (Presumed Innocent), Kelvin Brown, and Anika Poitier (actress/director and daughter of Sidney Poitier); DJ Alix Brown; filmmaker/DJ Michelle Kath Sinclair; content creator Ashamad Heard; influencer Simply SashaAnne and a mix of cultural creatives and industry folk got a first look at the IMAX version of the film. Sign O' The Times was Prince's second double album and third movie. The album was the next level of Prince's innovations in pop music and the movie captured one of his peak moments as a live performer. The IMAX film opens in theaters today for a one-week run and tickets are available through the IMAX site.



Charles Spicer Jr. of the Prince Estate



Gail Mitchell and Alexis Simpson



Anita Poitier and Fashion Designer Allison





Spike Lee, Taye Diggs & More Attend Prince IMAX Screening

For Sign O' The Times



Spike Lee, Don Lemon, and Taye Diggs were amongst the crowd that attended an IMAX screening of Prince's Sign O' The Times concert movie in New York Wednesday night. IMAX, Mercury Studios, FilmRise, and Paisley Park Studios hosted the event at the KMC Kips Bay 15 IMAX theatre in New York City. The evening started with attendees walking the purple carpet and standing in front of a floral arrangement and sharing their observations on Prince's legacy. Luann de Lesseps, Dianne Brill, Amir Arison, and Genevieve Gorder joined artists and musicians, including members of Interpol, Eugene Hutz (Gogo Bordello), Blu DeTiger, and Emmett Skye, along with designers and cultural figures in honoring Prince's artistry. DJs AKU (Florence & The Machine), The Muses, Rex DeTiger, and a surprise live tribute performance provided the entertainment while guests sipped on purple cocktails.

Sign O' The Times is one of the most important concert films, as it captured Prince at his height and was the companion film to an equally significant album. It was Prince's second time

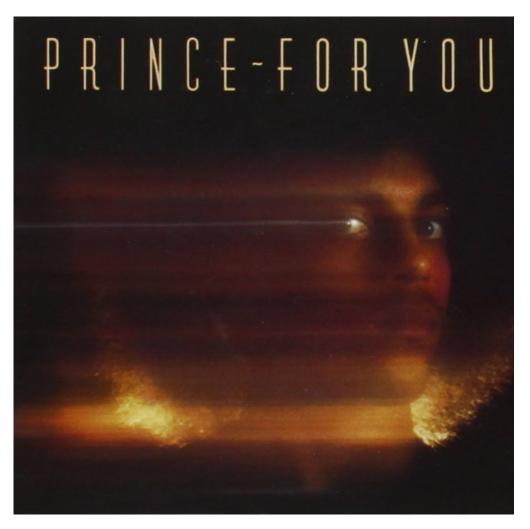
directing a film, having done so previously with *Under The Cherry Moon*. Sign O' The Times was praised by critics, unlike UTCM and despite it not doing so well at the box office, it has become an essential part of the Prince story and pop music. The IMAX version of the film will be available on streaming platforms and in theaters on August 29th.







Throwback: Prince: Soft and Wet



"Soft and Wet" is Prince's first solo single, released on June 7, 1978, which was his 20th birthday. He co-wrote the song with Chris Moon as part of the work done for his debut album, For You. Prince operated as a one-man band on the album, and for "Soft and Wet," he played synthesizers, guitar, drums, and clavinet. The sensual funk of "Soft and Wet" introduced Prince's falsetto, dripping with desire, on a bed of slinky synths, smacking handclaps, and an enchanting solo that was a

precursor to the sound of *Dirty Mind*. "Soft and Wet" was a Top 20 hit on the Soul Singles chart and *For You* made it to 163 on the Billboard 200. *For You* introduced one of the most important artists of the 20th and 21st centuries and was the start of a very long recording career. Londell McMillan announced a Ryan Coogler-directed musical movie about Prince, a box set of *Around The World In A Day* and vinyl versions of Hit and Run Phases One and Two at the Prince Celebration 2025.

Throwback: Jesse Johnson: Can You Help Me

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"Can You Help Me" is the second single from Jesse Johnson's 1985 debut album, Jesse Johnson's Revue. Johnson was the lead guitarist of The Time and the co-writer of their biggest songs, "Jungle Love" and "The Bird," with Prince and Morris Day. Johnson also wrote "Bite The Beat" with Prince for Vanity Six. Johnson had very few speaking parts in Purple Rain, but he was labeled the sex symbol of the group despite Day's over-the-top charisma. Johnson and Morris Day left The Time soon after the success of Purple Rain and Johnson scored a record deal with A&M, which was the start of his solo career. "Can You Help Me" was R&B that made its foundation with a funky synthesizer and Johnson's enthralling guitar work descended from Eddie Hazel and Jimi Hendrix. Minneapolis vocalist Germain Brooks, who was a member of the Andre Cymonefounded group The Girls, sang backup with Johnson on the

single. Promoted after "Be Your Man" and before "I Want My Girl," "Can You Help Me" was the most popular single from the album, with it being heard on the radio, in the clubs, roller rinks, and on the street.

The success of Johnson's first album made him one of the few members from The Time, including Morris Day, Jimmy Jam, and Terry Lewis, to make it outside of Prince's camp. Jesse Johnson released five solo albums, with the most recent one being *Verbal Penetration*, released in 2009. In 2025 he celebrated the 40th anniversary of *Jesse Johnson's Revue* with several online interviews. Johnson still tours and is currently working on his sixth solo project.