

Public Enemy's Professor Offers Flesh

Written by John James

Tuesday, 04 September 2001 18:00

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• My big pick of the week is this Tuesday's release of *And The Word Became Flesh*, the new album from Public Enemy's architect of sound, Professor Griff. The new Right Stuff Records album, his first in three years, is a fantastic return of the beat believer and system cheater, extending his legacy of ground-shaking boom-bastics into a new territory of smooth R&B and mature, jazz-flavored grooves. Former Public Enemy collaborator Chuck D is a featured guest vocalist, one of many contributors of socially conscious poetry flowing over the funky foundation into what Griff calls "poetical soul." The highlight of the 24-track set is "European on Me," taking on the subject of 21st Century technological slavery and the new digital haves and have-nots with featured guest Umar Bin Hassan of the Last Poets. Other guests wishing to grab your feet, free your mind, and hope your ass doth follow include up-and-comers Dei Dee Deionne, Nikki Luxx, and Uno the Prophet.

• This Tuesday the Freestyle Dust/Astralwerks label will issue the new Chemical Brothers 12-inch and CD five-inch single "It Began in Afrika" as a limited-edition release. The single has been making the club rounds with hot DJs such as Danny Tenaglia, Fatboy Slim, Roger Sanchez, and Paul Oakenfold spinning early advances of the track at their gigs.

• Look for the LP format of No Use for a Name's new *Live in a Dive* album to contain a full-size comic book, with CD buyers getting a smaller version as a CD booklet. The new Fat Wreck Chords release this Tuesday is the debut of the label's new live series, utilizing on-site 24-track mobile-recording-truck technology.

• With the Dead Kennedys court case resolved and founder Jello Biafra taking a healthy legal spanking by the other members, the group's catalog is being reissued this coming week on the Manifesto label. While the albums *Give Me Convenience or Give Me Death*, *Bedtime for Democracy*, *Frankenchrist*, and *Plastic Surgery Disasters* don't boast any bonus tracks, there is one new nugget of seminal California punk: the first authorized live album, *Mutiny On the Bay: Live From the San Francisco Bay*.

Television Alert:

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The Tonight Show with Jay Leno welcomes the Isley Brothers tonight, Don Henley on Thursday, and Babyface on Monday; The Late Show with David Letterman hosts Jimmy Eat World on Thursday; Late Night with Conan O'Brien features They Might Be Giants on Friday overnight and System of a Down on Tuesday overnight; Live with Regis and Kelly gets chatty with Jamiroquai on Monday morning; Politically Incorrect with Bill Maher matches the hair versus the tongue with Kid 'N Play and Gene Simmons of KISS on Friday overnight; and The Late Late Show with Craig Kilborn gets chronic with Afroman on Monday overnight.

New Releases Coming Tuesday, September 11:

... and like the winds, young grasshopper, are subject to change.

8Ball & MJG – Space Age 4 Eva: The Swisha House Screwed Up Version (Jcor) with guests Lil Mario and Sabwarfare

Afroman – The Good Times (Universal) forever 4:20 with tracks like “Because I Got High” and “Tall Cans”

All – Live Plus One (Epitaph) with a bonus CD of live Descendents recorded in 1996

Apes – Fugue in the Fog (French Kiss) primal hard rock from Washington, DC

Arsonists – Date of Birth (Matador) Brooklyn Hip-Hop boiled down to a three piece

Dave Aude – Nocturnal Wonderland (Moonshine) mix CD

B-Side Players – Movement (Surfdog) described as “War meets Lenny Kravitz with a dose of Ben Harper”

Bad Ronald – Bad Ronald (Reprise)

Ball in the House – The Way It Has to Be (BITH) a cappella old school vocal Pop featuring their take on Culture Club's “Karma Chameleon”

Syd Barrett – The Best of: Wouldn't Miss Me? (Capitol)

Pierre Bensusan – Intuite (Favored Nations) acoustic guitar masterwork by this French-Algerian

Beulah – The Coast Is Never Clear (Velocette)

Biohazard – Uncivilization (Sanctuary) with guests Phil Anselmo of Pantera and Peter Steele of Type O Negative

Blondie – Blondie, Plastic Letters, Parallel Lines, and Eat to the Beat (Capitol) expanded and remastered reissues featuring rarities like their cover of T. Rex's “Bang A Gong,” The Four Tops' “Seven Rooms Of Gloom,” David Bowie's “Heroes,” and Johnny Cash's “Ring Of Fire”

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David Bowie – All Saints (Virgin) instrumental tracks from 1977-1999

The Charlatans UK – Wonderland (MCA)

Colony – Who I Wanted to Be (Beyond)

Danzig – Danzig 7: Kiss the Skull (E-Magine)

DJ Krush – Zen (Red Ink) featuring guests Black Thought of the Roots, Zap Mama, N'Dea Davenport and Company Flow

Dream Theater – Live Scenes from New York (Elektra) three-CD set

Bob Dylan – Love & Theft (Columbia) all new featuring guitarist Charlie Sexton

Electric Frankenstein – The Buzz of 1,000 Volts (Victory)

Connye Florance – Connye Florance (Leon Russell Records) new from BET television's Jazz Vocalist of the Year 2000

Ben Folds – Rockin' the Suburbs (550 Music/Epic) with guest John McCrea of Cake

Glitter – original motion picture soundtrack (Virgin) all new from Mariah Carey

Stone Gossard – Bayleaf (Epic) solo album from the Pearl Jam guitarist with guests Ty Willman of Green Apple Quick Step and singer songwriter Pete Droge

Groove Armada – Goodbye Country Hello Nightclub (Jive Electro)

Hardball – original motion picture soundtrack (So So Def/Sony) with music from Lil Bow Wow, Mobb Deep, Jagged Edge, DaBrat and more

John Hiatt – The Tiki Bar Is Open (Vanguard) with his backup band the Goners

James Holden – Fear of a Silver Planet (Bliss) funky trance mix CD

Impulse Ride – Residue (J-Bird) voted the best alternative band in Augusta, Georgia, for five years in a row

Jamiroquai – A Funk Odyssey (Epic)

Damian "Jr. Gong" Marley – Halfway Tree (Motown) new from Bob Marley's youngest son with guests Bunny Wailer, Treach, Stephen Marley and Eve

Jude – King of Yesterday (Maverick)

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Robert Earl Keen – Gravitational Forces (Lost Highway) new from this hot Texas singer songwriter featuring his take on Johnny Cash's "I Still Miss Someone"

Leftover Crack – Mediocre Generica (Epitaph) featuring former members of Choking Victim

Lennon – 5:30 Saturday Morning (Arista)

Long Beach Dub Allstars – Wonders of the World (Dreamworks) with guest Will.I.Am of Black Eyed Peas

Love Saves the Day – Superstar (Bodyguard)

Nick Lowe – The Convincer (Yep Roc) featuring covers of Johnny Rivers' "Poor Side of Town" and Arthur Prysock's "Only A Fool Breaks His Own Heart"

Lynyrd Skynyrd – One More from the Road (MCA) reissue of this definitive 2-CD set recorded live in 1976 with bonus rarities

Mankind Liberation Front – Automind (Edel/Neutron)

Mercury Rev – All Is Dream (V2)

Millencolin – Melancholy Collection (Epitaph) 22-tracks featuring early singles and rare b-sides from this Swedish Pop Punk band

Mixmaster Mike – Spin Psyche (Moonshine) his first-ever mixed CD from this key crew member of the Beastie Boys' multi-platinum "Hello Nasty" posse featuring guests KRS-One, Q-Bert, Gang Starr and the Large Professor

MullMuzzler – 2 (Magna Carta) new from James LaBrie of Dream Theater and Mike Keneally

Me'shell Ndegeocello – Code Word Cookie: The Anthropological Mix Tape (Maverick)

Roland Orzabal – Tomcats Screaming Outside (Gold Circle) new solo album from the Tears for Fears founder

Ozomatli – Embrace the Chaos (Interscope) with guests Pos of Del La Soul and Common

P.O.D. – Satellite (Atlantic)

Pressure Point – To Be Continued (GMM) street punk mixing up influences of oi and reggae

The Rockets – The Rockets (Varese Sarabande) reissue from 1968 from the band that became Neil Young's Crazy Horse

Dexter Romweber – Chased by Martians (Manifesto) new hillbilly howl from the Flat Duo Jets

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singer and guitarist

Leon Russell – Signature Sounds (Leon Russell Records) his private label debut featuring new acoustic recordings of his hits

Boz Scaggs – Dig (Virgin)

Solex – Low Kick & Hard Bop (Matador)

Ken Stringfellow – Touched (Manifesto) debut solo album from this touring member of R.E.M. and Posies founder

Tesla – Replugged Live (Sanctuary) two-CD set

The Thought Industry – Short Wave on a Cold Day (Metal Blade)

The Thrillbillys – original motion picture soundtrack (Planetary Records) featuring Trailer Bride, The Shiners, Drive-By Truckers and Angry Johnny & the Killbillies

Timbaland & Magoo – Welcome to Our World (Virgin)

Training Day – original motion picture soundtrack (Priority) featuring a new remake of David Bowie's "This Is Not America" with Sean "P.Diddy" Combs

various artists – Poet: A Tribute to Townes Van Zandt (Freefalls) with Nanci Griffith, John Prine, Lucinda Williams, Cowboy Junkies, Emmylou Harris, and more

various artists – Fubu: The Goodlife Album (Universal) featuring Nate Dogg, Mac Don, LL Cool J, Mr. Cheeks, Beenie Man and Erick Sermon

Jimmy Vaughan – Do You Get the Blues? (Artemis) with guests James Cotton and Lou Ann Barton

Yes – Magnification (Beyond) all new featuring the classic lineup of Jon Anderson, Steve Howe, Chris Squire and Alan White