ERIC FRAZIER

Jazz Musician, Singer, Dancer, and Prodocer

Jaznest@aol.com ericfraziermusic.com +1 718-797-2459

ABOUT

Eric Frazier was born in Harlem, New York City. He was raised in Brooklyn, New York in a family of eight children. He ran track and road races for 27 years. His love of the physical culture and creative expression led him to the study of the Conga Drum, Djembe Drum and African Dance. He has since expanded his artistic endeavors to singing, trap drums, tap dance, and percussion.

His interest in Dance, Music, Theater and Writing are evident in his background. Otis Gould, former Chi-lites drummer and college friend, taught him to play Congas for bands. He learned the Djembe drum from Ibrahim, famous master teacher from The Dance Company of Senegal.

Eric was inspired in dance by his brother, the gifted and talented Gary Ellis Frazier, formerly with The Alvin Ailey Dance Company. Eric has performed with such dance groups as Katherine Dunham, Olatunji, Charles Moore, Chief Bey, The International African Ballet, and Varshaa Bardhan and Chandra Baneyei of The Tanusree Shankar Dance Company of India (Headed by Ananda Shankar, son of the great Ravi Shankar).

Eric was a solo artist for the play "Wemmins of the Dark" produced by Woody King at the historic Henry Street Playhouse in Soho, New York City and went on tour in the New York Metropolitan area performing his own poetry for The Rennick Playright Company. He is the author of the following books of poetry: "Family, Friends and You," "Thought of a black Child" and "Black Gold and You." Additionally, Eric is the author of numerous scholarly articles, Jazz Columns, publications and letters. He has lectured at numerous colleges and Universities and is available for lectures, workshops and presentations.

Eric has had the pleasure of great artists accompany him in his band and on his recordings, such as Reggie Workman, Robin Kenyatta, Carlos Garnett, Jimmy Ziegler, Bob Cunningham, Bill Saxton, Stanley Banks and Danny Mixon. In addition to performing with legends such as Pharaoh Sanders and Jack McDuff, his recordings have also included the talents of Jeremy Pelt, Anthony Wonsey, Wayne Escofery and Maurice Brown. Max Roach, renown as one of the most legendary Jazz Drummers in history, first heard Eric as a solo artist on October 25, 1998. He was inspired to get on the Mic and tell the audience to savor the moment because they were in the midst of a great conga player.

Eric Frazier is a Jazz recording artist, TV Show Host of "Cultural Spectrums and Jazz Pearls" on BRIC TV , Producer (Fort Greene Park Jazz Festival and various events, writer, educator, author, poet, CEO - Eric Frazier Productions), singer, composer, musician, arranger, band leader, actor, tap dancer, sensitivity group instructor, former, PAL boxer, track and road runner, educational consultant, research historian - Africa mother of human civilization, multiple patent owner, event show host, father of two daughters, mentor to youths and adults and a family oriented person.

Eric was educated at the famed "Boys High School in Brooklyn, New York. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in three years at Southern Illinois University, (Carbondale, Illinois) in Africana Studies with minors in Economics and Sociology and Cultures and two Masters degrees and a Doctoral ABD at Columbia University Teachers College in New York City in Education Administration and policy.

COLLECTION

Eric's recordings exemplify a world of music including Jazz, Swing, BeBop, Salsa, R&B. Calypso, Blues, Broadway, Reggae, Reggaeton, World Music and Afro beat. Eric currently hosts his show "Cultural Spectrums and Jazz pearls," 2 - 3PM every Wednesday on BRIC Arts Media TV. (Spectrum Channel 34, Optimum 67, RCN 82 Verizon Fios 42 and online @ bricartsmedia.org/1. Eric also hosted his own television talk show called "Cultural Horizons" on Queens Public Access Cable TV in 1998. He has made personal appearances on The Hambone Cable TV show (BCAT), The Camille Yarborough Manhattan Cable TV Show. The Jazzy Jazz Show (BCAT-TV), Producer's Profile (BCAT-TV), Caribbean Soul (BCAT-TV), BET Jazz Discovery and Bet On Jazz Cable TV shows. Eric was the co-host of WLIU Jazz radio 88.1 FM in Brooklyn and has appeared on numerous radio stations across the USA.

EDUCATION

Eric Frazier Served as an educator in the capacity of:

Teacher and Teacher trainer- elementary, middle and high school.

Assistant Principal-PS 289, MS 61, MS 320, PS 28,

Principal- PS 289, MS 385, PS 28,

District Office- Reading Writing Coordinator DO 23, Test Coordinator DO 23, 16.

Special Education Placement Officer DO 16,

Central Board of Education- School Improvement Facilitator

He performs workshops, lectures and lessons for students from preschool to high school, for community groups, senior citizen institutions, Day Care centers, Fraternities and Sororities, professional organizations and corporations.

PRESS & AIRPLAY

AK / Girdwood /KEUL
AK / Haines/ KHNS
AL / Birmingham/ WBLZ
AR / Little Rock / KABF
AR / Little Rock / KUAR
AR / State University / KASU
Argentina / Buenos Aires / La Guagua Radio
Australia / Adelaide / Radio Adelaide
Australia / Sydney / 2MBS 102.5 FM
AZ / Tucson / KUAZ
AZ / Tucson / KAMP
CA / Davis / KDVS
CA / San Jose / KSJS
CA / Arcata / KHSU
CA / Chico / KCHO
CA / Long Beach / KLBC
CA / Redway / KMUD
CA / Nevada City / KVMR
CA / Rohnert Park / KRCB
CA / San Diego / KSDS
CA / SF Bay Area / KCSM
CA / Fresno / KFCF
CA / SF Bay Area / Brown Radio (KDIA/KDYA)
CA / Berkeley KALX
Cable/Airlines/In Store/Restaurant/ DMX Music
Canada / St. John's NF / CHMR
Canada / Saint John NB / CFMH
Canada / Victoria BC / CFUV
Canada / London ON / CHRW
Canada / Ottawa ON / CHUO
Canada / Calgary AB / CJSW
Canada / Kamloops BC / CFBX
Canada / Burnaby BC / CJSF
Canada / Toronto ON /CKLN
CO / Grand Junction / KAFM
CO / Crested Butte / KBUT
CO / Durango / KDUR
CO / Alamosa / KRZA
CO / Paonia / KVNF
CO / Colorado Springs / KRCC
CO / Fort Collins / KRFC
CO / Telluride / KOTO
CT / Hartford / WRTC
CT / Hartford / WWUH
CT / Fairfield / WVOF
CT / Bridgeport / WPKN
Denmark / Holstebro / Radio Holstebro
FL / Orlando / WUCF
FL / Tampa / WUSF
FL / Miami / WLRN
FL / Miami / WDNA
France / Radiojazz34
GA / Atlanta / WCLK
GA / Savannah / WHCJ
GA / Atlanta / Georgia Public Broadcasting
GA / Athens / WUGA
GA / Augusta / WACG
GA / Brunswick / WWIO
GA / Carrollton / WUWG
GA / Columbus / WJSP
GA / Demorest / WPPR
GA / Dahlonega / WNGU
GA / Fort Gaines / WJWV
GA / Macon / WDCO
GA / Savannah / WSVH
GA / St. Marys / WWIO
GA / Tifton / WABR
GA / Valdosta / WWET
GA / Dalton / WNGH
GA / Rome / WGPB
GA / Atlanta / WMUM
GA / Albany / WUNV

APPEARANCES ON OTHER RECORDINGS

"Life of a Superstar" by Pamela McPherson-Cornelius, 2007/ Eric Frazier-Composer "It's all Love" Track 3
"A Taste of Honey" By Neil Woodard, 2006 Eric Frazier -Congas/ Tracks 1,2,3,6,10
Simirillion of "Unicorns and Jazmine, A Lover's Tale" by Cecil Wilson, 2001 Eric Frazier -congas, percussion, tracks 1,6,
Bebopbraineez DVD, Children's Jazzy DVD Series, 2008 /http://www.bebopbraineez.com
"Da Stuy" DVD movie written by Joseph Grant, 2006 / http://www.ghettoeyez.com/
Eric's #1 hit CD "In Your Own Time," is featured on the video documentary of the book "MY BUSINESS PLAN BOOK" by author Laurana Edwards.

PRESS & AIRPLAY

GA / Waycross / WXVS
IA / Iowa City / KRUI
IA / Decorah / KWLC
IA / Sioux City / KWIT
ID / Moscow / KRFP
IL / Chicago / WHPK
IL / Chicago / WIIT
IL / River Grove / WRRG
Japan / Yellow Beat Radio
KS / Wichita / KMUW
LA / New Orleans / WWOZ
LA / Monroe / KEDM
LA / Shreveport / KSCL
Luxembourg / Grand Duchy of Radio ARA
MA / Springfield / WTCC
MA / Williamstown / WCFM
MA / Cambridge / WMBR
MA / Worcester / WICN
MA / Boston / WGBH
MD / Princess Anne / WESM
MD / Baltimore / WEAA
ME / East Orland / WERU
ME / Portland / WMPG
ME / Lewiston / WRBC
ME / Bangor / Maine Public Broadcasting
MI / Deerborn / WHFR
MI / Traverse City / WNMC
MI / Marquette / WUPX
MI / Lansing / WLNZ
MI / Grand Rapids / WGVU
MN / Minneapolis / KBEM
MN / Grand Marais / WTIP
MO / Columbia / KOPN
MO / Jefferson City / KJLU
MS / Jackson / WJSU
NC / Raleigh / WSHA
NC / Durham / WNCU
NE / Omaha / KIOS
Online / UK Jazz Radio
NH / Portsmouth / WSCA
NJ / Pemberton / WBZC
NJ / Trenton / WPRB
NM / Albuquerque / UNM
NM / Santa Fe / KSFR
NV / Las Vegas / KUNV
NY / Hamilton / WRCU
NY / Oneonta /WONY
NY / Albany/Troy / WRPI
NY / Binghamton / WSKG/WSQX
NY / Syracuse / WAER
NY / Albany/Troy / WAMC
NY / Buffalo / WBFO
NY / Poughkeepsie / WVKR
NY / New York / WBAI
OH / Dayton / WDPS
OH / Cleveland / WRUW
OH / Cleveland / WCLV
Online / M3
Online / Radioio.com
Online / Upper Room Radio Show
Online / Uptown Jazz Network
Online / Accuradio.com
Online / AOL Music
Online / Jazzknob.org
OR / La Grande / KEOL
OR / Eugene / KLCC
OR / Bend / KPOV
OR / Portland / KBOO
PA / Williamsport / WPTC
PA / Bethlehem / WDIY
PA / Erie / WQLN
PA / Philadelphia / WRTI
PA / University Park / WKPS
PA / Pittsburgh / WDUQ
SD / Vermillion / SD Public Broadcasting
The Netherlands / Jazz & Blues Tour Radio
TN / Memphis / WUMR
TX / College Station / KAMU
TX / San Antonio / KUIW
TX / El Paso / KTEP
TX / Beaumont / KVLU
TX / Harlingen / KMBH/KHID
UT / Ogden /KWCR
UT / Salt Lake City / KUER
VA / Richmond / WDCE
VA / Charlottesville / WTJU
VA / Roanoke / WVTF
VT / Burlington / WRUV
VT / Colchester / WVPR
WA / Olympia / KAOS
WA / Walla Walla / KWCW
WA / Everett / KSER
WA / Spokane / KEWU
WI / Stevens Point / WWSP
WV / Morgantown / WWVU

MEDIA

The Eric Frazier Quintet

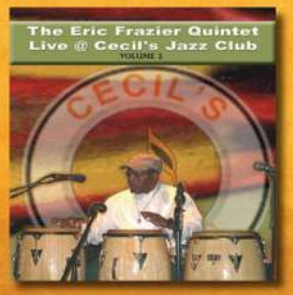
"The music is excellent and packed with high-flying jazz energy! Eric's conga drumming, vocals & percussion are par excellence, flawlessly executed & more punctual than a metronome. He is joined by Gene Ghee on tenor sax, piano from Yoichi Uzeki, Quintin Franklin's bass & drums from Larry Williams. Both volumes feature at least 1 original from Eric, "*Like A Lion In The Serengeti*"... an "**instant hit**" for my ears... some great vocals by Eric & it jumps "*Knowbody Knows Me*" was party time, to be sure, it was track 2 on Volume 2, "*Cantaloupe Island*" ...that got my vote for absolute favorite, especially with the emphasis on Frazier's percussion... If you're down in the dumps a bit & want some music to minister to your spirit with a prescription for fun, you'll want to get these CD's... they get a **MOST HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** from me with our new "energy quotient" rating of 4 1/2 out of 5."
—**Rotcod Zzaj** • www.indiconestop.com/jamroom/bands/647
www.projectopus.com/zzaj

"We enjoyed their take on Coltrane's "*Impressions*" and Frazier's "*Celia*" The best of the vocals is Frazier's own "*Like A Lion In The Serengeti*". The program material is **excellent** on both discs including "*Night In Tunisia*", "*Cantaloupe Island*", "*Route 66*", "*Caravan*" and "*Chameleon*". Frazier and his team do a **great job**!"
—**D. Oscar, Groomes O's Place Jazz Newsletter** • www.OsPlaceJazz.com

"This cat has taken a circuitous route around the music world to finally wind up with a **smart combo** that knows how to kick it out live as these two sets show quite well. Giving a revamping to a load of standards and classics... Two sets of joyful, **hard charging jazz**, done up straight ahead and with four on the floor. Time for you to get to know this cat."
—**Chris Spector, Midwest Record** • www.midwestrecord.com

"Conga drummer and percussionist Eric Frazier also has a vocal side, and he exhibits all of his **talents** on his new album. Frazier displays his conga prowess on instrumentals like "*A Night in Tunisia*" and "*Caravan*," and digs in to such vocals as "*The Glory of Love*" and "*Cheek to Cheek*"."
—**Zan Stewart, The Star-Ledger**

Vol.2 "The tunes the quintet plays are **excellent**: "*Softly as in a Moring Sunrise*", "*Cantaloupe Island*", "*All Blues*", "*Route 66*", "*Moody's Mood for Love*" (inspired by King Pleasure), and "*Fever*" in addition to Frazier's "*Like a Lion in the Serengeti*"."
—**Cashbox Magazine** • www.cashboxmagazine.com



www.cdbaby.com
www.amazon.com
www.EricFrazierMusic.com

Nuyorican Poets Cafe presents 'Life Among the Aryans'

In "Life Among the Aryans," an American political satire by Ishmael Reed, directed by Rome Neal, the time is the future and the political pendulum has swung way back. Now the president is Jewish and the head of the FBI is a Black woman, presenting such a nightmare to the far right that they now miss the president they called The Muslim King. The government has enacted reparations to Black Americans for the unpaid labor of their ancestors. This inspires envy and desperation among impecunious members of the Alt-Right. But it also inspires them to a new, uproarious strategy of "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em." The Nuyorican Poets Cafe and Ishmael Reed present the satire until June 24 at Nuyorican Poets Cafe, 236 East Third Street (betw. Avenues B and C).

The play presents a cunning satire of white class consciousness. In its hilariously dystopian future, it's clear that white supremacists have been hornswoggled by their Alt-Right President, P.P. Spanky, who has shuffled up all their wealth to his billionaire friends. But these white folks still don't realize that all along, Blacks should have been their natural allies in their fight against exploitation. Alt-Right activists contort themselves ideologically to fit into the new world order while their wives escape the misery of their home lives by "going Black." With wordplay and irony, the play reminds us how nowadays, red state ideologues have enthusiastically elected their own exploiters, making them share with Black America the butt end of the economy. In Ishmael Reed's traditional style, every character is a clown. The play uses time-honored techniques of signifyin' to make light of how white folks are oblivious to the irony of their political situation.

The play was originally workshopped at the Cafe with the support of NYSCA.

Ishmael Reed is an American poet, novelist, essayist, songwriter, editor, and publisher, who is known for his satirical works challenging American political culture. He is a winner of the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship (genius award), the renowned L.A. Times Robert KirschLifetime Achievement Award and the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Award. He has been nominated for a Pulitzer and finalist for two National Book Awards and is a Professor Emeritus at the University of California at Berkley. He founded the Before Columbus Foundation, which promotes multicultural American writing. (The American Book Awards, sponsored by the foundation, has been called The American League to the National Book Awards' National League.) He also founded PEN Oakland (called 'The Blue Collar PEN' by The New York Times), which issues the Josephine Miles Literary Awards. Mr. Reed is author of thirty titles including the acclaimed novel 'Mumbo Jumbo,' as well as essays, plays and poetry. Titles

Acting company of "Life Among the Aryans".

Back Radio Broke Down," "Reckless Eyeballing," "Flight To Canada," "Japanese By Spring" and "Juice." He is an AUDELCO and an Otto awards recipient for drama and Backstage magazine has compared him to Molière. He is currently Distinguished Professor at The California College of the Arts.

Director Rome Nealis the Artistic Theatre Director of the Nuyorican Poets Cafe theatre program. He received an Obie Grant with Cafe founder Miguel Algarinfor excellence in theater. He has received two Audelco Awards for directing ("Shango de Ima" by Pepe Carril and 'Don't Explain' by Samuel Harp), two for acting (for the leading part in "Signs" by Gabrielle N. Lane and for Solo Performance for "Monk" by Laurence Holder), and one for lighting design ("Shango de Ima" by Pepe Carril). Neal has also received the National Black Theatre Festival's coveted Lloyd Richards-Director's Award and a Monarch Merit Award for his outstanding contributions in New York Theatre. His other directing credits include 'Julius Caesar Set in Africa,' an adaptation of the classic play; "The Circle Unbroken is a Hard Bop" by Sekou Sundiata; "Meeting Lillie" and 'Primitive World: an Anti-Nuclear Jazz Musical' by Amiri Barakaand"The C Above High C" by Ishmael Reed, all performed at the Nuyorican Poets Cafe and the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston Salem North Carolina.

The Nuyorican Poets Cafe serves as a home for groundbreaking works of poetry, music, theater, visual arts and poetry slam. A multicultural and multi-arts institution, the Cafe opens its arms to audiences, artists and students of

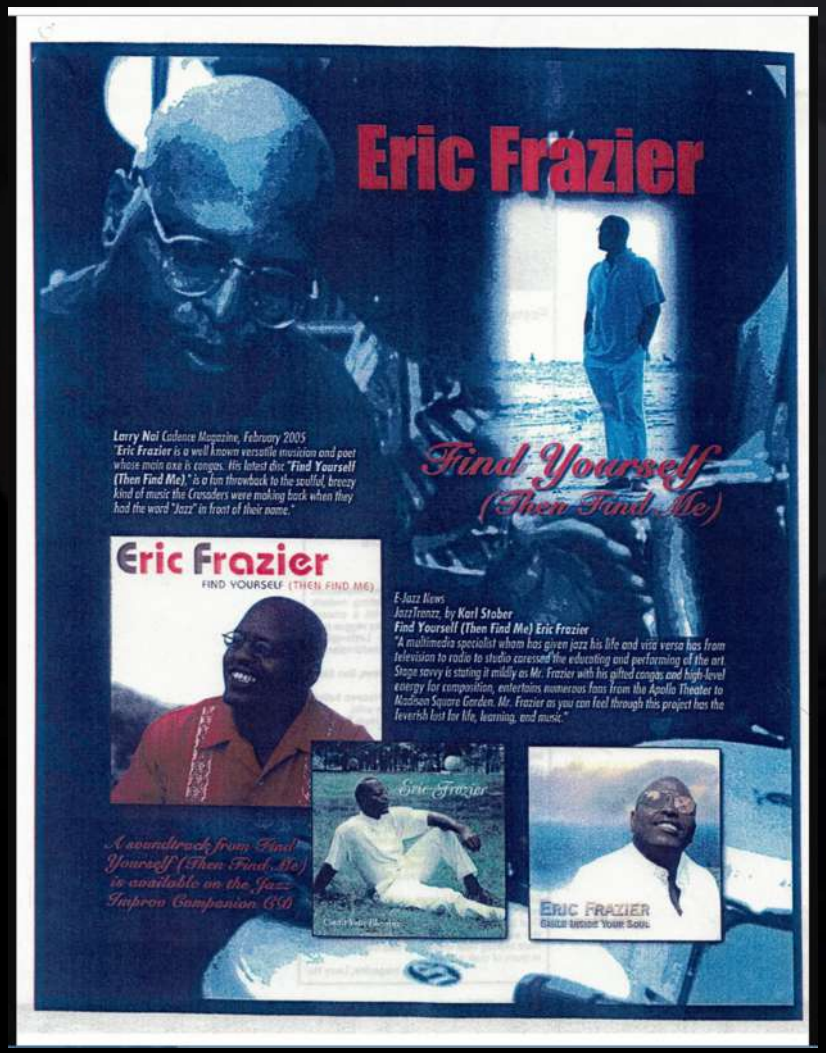
Maurice Carlton (L) and Eric Frazier in "Life Among the Aryans".

tion. Allen Ginsberg called the Cafe 'the most integrated place on the planet.' It champions artists who exist outside the mainstream, particularly spoken word artists of color whose work addresses socially, economically and politically intense topics. The Cafe is home to a multitalented network of artists and educators who devote their efforts to championing the diverse artistic voices of tomorrow. The Wall Street Journal referred to the Cafe as 'an antidote to gentrification,' and NPR called the Cafe 'one

gramming' that 'speaks to the m
ginalized.'

"Life Among the Aryans" will
acted by Tom Angelo, Kim Aust
Maurice Carlton, Allam Forst
Eric Frazier, Jennifer Glassgo
Angela Gray, Malika Iman, Fra
Martin,Timothy Mullins L
Pakulski, Monisha Shiva, Veri
Taylor and Robert Turner. Maur
Carlton (as Dr. Krokman, w
turns whites into Blacks with s
cial formula) and Robert Turner(
ghost of a New Orleans Dock wor
er) are veteran actors and multi

MEDIA



Eric Frazier

Find Yourself (Then Find Me)

Larry Nai *Cadence Magazine, February 2005*
*"**Eric Frazier** is a well known versatile musician and poet whose main axe is congas. His latest disc **"Find Yourself (Then Find Me)**," is a fun throwback to the soulful, breezy kind of music the Crusaders were making back when they had the word "Jazz" in front of their name."*

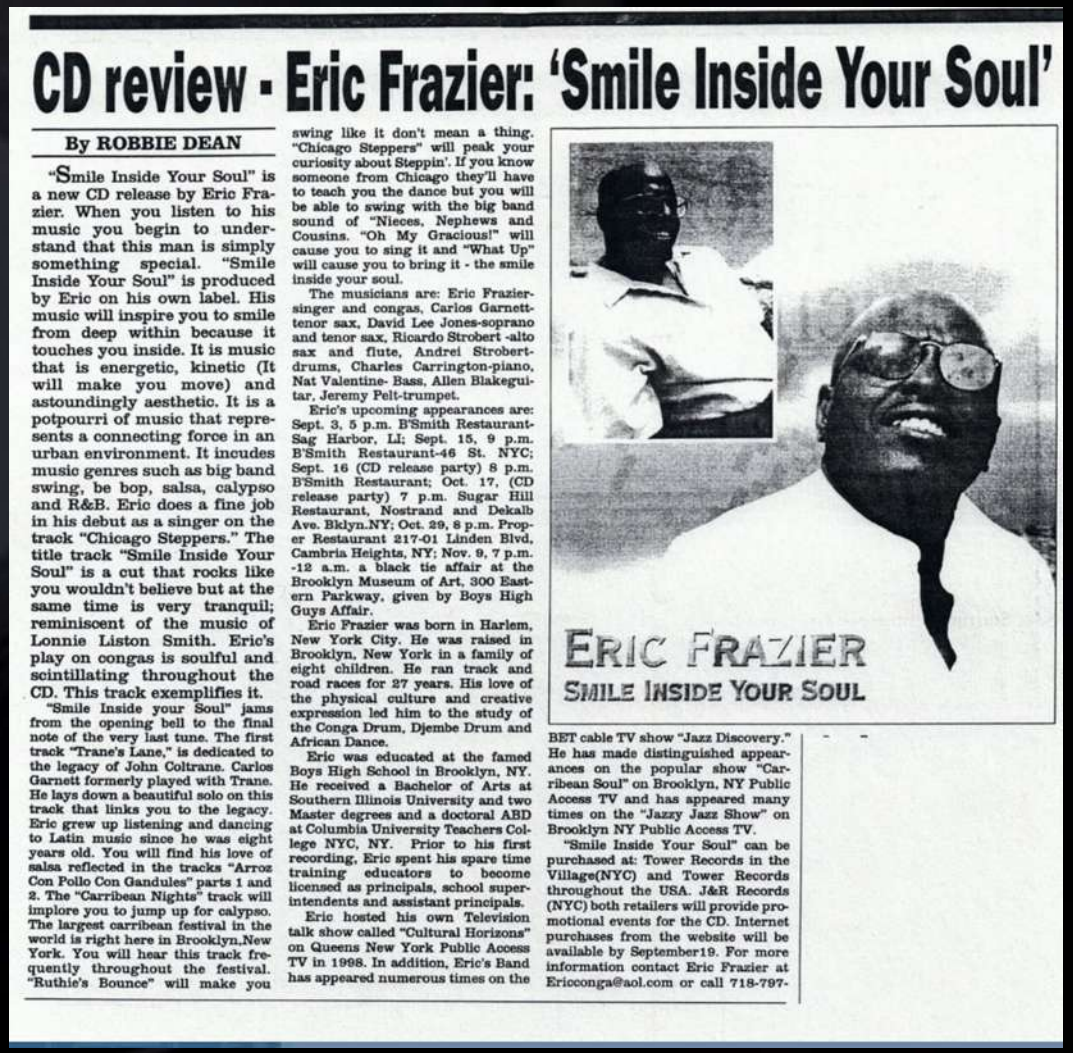
Eric Frazier
FIND YOURSELF (THEN FIND ME)

E-Jazz News
*JazzTronzz, by **Karl Stober***
Find Yourself (Then Find Me) Eric Frazier
"A multimedia specialist whom has given jazz his life and vice versa has from television to radio to studio caressed the educating and performing of the art. Stage savvy is stating it mildly as Mr. Frazier with his gifted congas and high-level energy for composition, entertains numerous fans from the Apollo Theater to Madison Square Garden. Mr. Frazier as you can feel through this project has the feverish lust for life, learning, and music."

A soundtrack from Find Yourself (Then Find Me) is available on the Jazz Improv Companion CD

Eric Frazier

ERIC FRAZIER
SMILE INSIDE YOUR SOUL



CD review - Eric Frazier: 'Smile Inside Your Soul'

By ROBBIE DEAN

"Smile Inside Your Soul" is a new CD release by Eric Frazier. When you listen to his music you begin to understand that this man is simply something special. "Smile Inside Your Soul" is produced by Eric on his own label. His music will inspire you to smile from deep within because it touches you inside. It is music that is energetic, kinetic (It will make you move) and astoundingly aesthetic. It is a potpourri of music that represents a connecting force in an urban environment. It incudes music genres such as big band swing, be bop, salsa, calypso and R&B. Eric does a fine job in his debut as a singer on the track "Chicago Steppers." The title track "Smile Inside Your Soul" is a cut that rocks like you wouldn't believe but at the same time is very tranquil; reminiscent of the music of Lonnie Liston Smith. Eric's play on congas is soulful and scintillating throughout the CD. This track exemplifies it.

"Smile Inside your Soul" jams from the opening bell to the final note of the very last tune. The first track "Trane's Lane," is dedicated to the legacy of John Coltrane. Carlos Garnett formerly played with Trane. He lays down a beautiful solo on this track that links you to the legacy. Eric grew up listening and dancing to Latin music since he was eight years old. You will find his love of salsa reflected in the tracks "Arroz Con Pollo Con Gandules" parts 1 and 2. The "Carribean Nights" track will implore you to jump up for calypso. The largest carribean festival in the world is right here in Brooklyn,New York. You will hear this track frequently throughout the festival. "Ruthie's Bounce" will make you swing like it don't mean a thing. "Chicago Steppers" will peak your curiosity about Steppin'. If you know someone from Chicago they'll have to teach you the dance but you will be able to swing with the big band sound of "Nieces, Nephews and Cousins. "Oh My Gracious!" will cause you to sing it and "What Up" will cause you to bring it - the smile inside your soul.

The musicians are: Eric Frazier-singer and congas, Carlos Garnett-tenor sax, David Lee Jones-soprano and tenor sax, Ricardo Strobert -alto sax and flute, Andrei Strobert-drums, Charles Carrington-piano, Nat Valentine- Bass, Allen Blakeguitar, Jeremy Pelt-trumpet.

Eric's upcoming appearances are: Sept. 3, 5 p.m. B'Smith Restaurant-Sag Harbor, LI; Sept. 15, 9 p.m. B'Smith Restaurant-46 St. NYC; Sept. 16 (CD release party) 8 p.m. B'Smith Restaurant; Oct. 17, (CD release party) 7 p.m. Sugar Hill Restaurant, Nostrand and Dekalb Ave. Bklyn.NY; Oct. 29, 8 p.m. Proper Restaurant 217-01 Linden Blvd, Cambria Heights, NY; Nov. 9, 7 p.m. -12 a.m. a black tie affair at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, 300 Eastern Parkway, given by Boys High Guys Affair.

Eric Frazier was born in Harlem, New York City. He was raised in Brooklyn, New York in a family of eight children. He ran track and road races for 27 years. His love of the physical culture and creative expression led him to the study of the Conga Drum, Djembe Drum and African Dance.

Eric was educated at the famed Boys High School in Brooklyn, NY. He received a Bachelor of Arts at Southern Illinois University and two Master degrees and a doctoral ABD at Columbia University Teachers College NYC, NY. Prior to his first recording, Eric spent his spare time training educators to become licensed as principals, school superintendents and assistant principals.

Eric hosted his own Television talk show called "Cultural Horizons" on Queens New York Public Access TV in 1998. In addition, Eric's Band has appeared numerous times on the BET cable TV show "Jazz Discovery." He has made distinguished appearances on the popular show "Carribean Soul" on Brooklyn, NY Public Access TV and has appeared many times on the "Jazzy Jazz Show" on Brooklyn NY Public Access TV.

"Smile Inside Your Soul" can be purchased at: Tower Records in the Village(NYC) and Tower Records throughout the USA. J&R Records (NYC) both retailers will provide promotional events for the CD. Internet purchases from the website will be available by September19. For more information contact Eric Frazier at Ericconga@aol.com or call 718-797-

MEDIA

The Brooklyn Paper
Brooklyn Papers Publication
BROOKLYN'S REAL NEWSPAPERS
Including The Brooklyn Heights Paper, Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, DUMBO Paper, Fort Greene-Clinton Hill Paper and Downtown News

GO BROOKLYN

Southern Style

Five Spot Supper Club's Sunday brunch serves up heaping portions

By Jared Rosenberg for *The Brooklyn Papers*

The Eric Frazier Quintet

When I regained consciousness, it was just about time to return to the Five Spot for another helping of live jazz. As one of the final shows of the second annual Central Brooklyn Jazz Festival, the Five Spot that night played host to the Eric Frazier Quintet. From behind his congas, percussionist, Eric Frazier led Kenny Forshe on soprano sax, Charles Kerrington on keyboards, Nat Valentine on electric bass and Andrei Strobert on drums, through an eclectic mix of bop, funk, blues and bossa nova. Frazier and his group seemed to personify the title of their latest album, "Smile Inside Your Soul", (EF Productions, 2000) playing with a joy that obviously stemmed from an immense, internal delight in the music. Bassist Valentine especially brought energy and excitement to the performance with his dynamic solos and bright tone.

So if you find yourself free of commitments on Sunday, check out the brunch at the Five Spot, and then come back later for more great live music!

ENTERTAINMENT

THIS A'INT CD 101.9 MUSIC

By TYREN ALLEN

If George Duke, Carlos Garnett and Brandford Marsalis were to create a progeny, his name would be Eric Frazier and, the project he would create would be called "Count Your Blessings." A reminder that jazz can be smooth and funky.

"Count Your Blessings" is not an attempt to make a funky jazz album—it just is. Frazier and his band will give you 10 tracks of music dedicated to moving your neck and heart. Like Duke and Garnett, Frazier uses African instruments to underline his music. Actually, he is a master of the conga and it shows. He fills the spaces in between the bass and drums perfectly. Soft when needed and excited when the mood requests.

Too many New York artists are stuck in a time warp. While exploring their musical roots, their expressions sound old. Embracing the 70's is one thing, becoming a 70's musician in 1998, is quite another.

The retro thing has just gotten way out-of-hand. If I wanted to hear Gil Scott-Heron I would buy a Gil-Scott Heron album.

Frazier has studied and learned from the best—in two fields, poetry and music. He has been known to sit and listen to the best poets and musicians around, while "hanging" at Abiodun Oyewole's home (Last Poets).

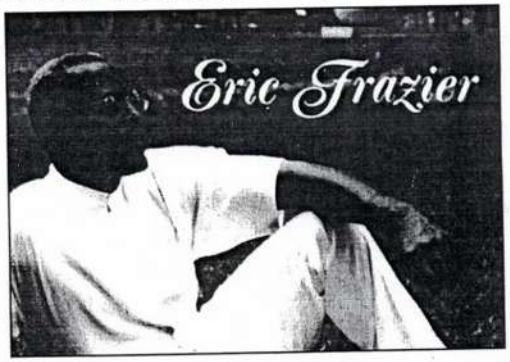
On any given night or Sunday afternoon, Dun's house will have Onaje Allan Gumbs sitting at the piano while Jessica Care Moore performs a poem and Phyllis Stickney listens. Formal training will teach the academics, but the aesthetic can only be learned from the best.

Frazier has both.

His playing is top rate. A drummer I know from the Drummer's Circle in Prospect Park, thought, "this guy is good. He can play. He's not just slapping the skin, the drum is talking."

True, his poetry may not be equivalent to the collected life works of Prof. Louis Reyes Rivera. Still, Frazier respects the art enough to present poetry good enough for the page, though, some critics will argue for more training. According to my high school English teacher, poetry must come from the heart, and, it is obvious "Rhythm" and "Million Man March" are from deep within.

"Count Your Blessings" is meant to remind us of the funky jazz songs that ruled during the 1970's while taking us on a ride through the present. On this CD, their is music with melody; solos meant to make our spines tingle; and, poetry forcing the listener to think.



LET'S CONNECT

Available on iTunes

cdbaby

Jaznest@aol.com

ericfraziermusic.com

+1 718-797-2459