

# Popular cartoon series spurs hip-hop album

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

ATLANTA — Cartoon Network and Rhino Dexter has created many fantastic inventions in his secret scientific laboratory, but never anything with this much flava.

On Aug. 20, Cartoon Network and Rhino will release "Dexter's Laboratory: The Hip-Hop Experiment," an album of original music inspired by the Cartoon Network hit series "Dexter's Laboratory." "The Hip-Hop Experiment" will contain six all-new hip-hop tracks from stars including Coolio, De La Soul, Prince Paul, Phife Diggy (formerly of A Tribe Called Quest), will.i.am (from Black Eyed Peas) and YZ.

Deep in the bowels of his lab, Dexter has assembled the prime elements for his new hip-hop stew. He has synthesized phat beats with mad scientist rhyming skills. The boy genius also added the perfect amount of cutting, scratching and sampling to his beaker. The results are six hot new tracks based on "Dexter's Laboratory" from some of hip-hop's most inventive artists. Even Dee Dee, his meddling older sister, and Mandark, Dexter's rival in all things science, slip into the mix.

"Dexter's Laboratory: The

Hip-Hop Experiment" will have a retail price of \$7.98. It will include the following tracks: "Dexter's Laboratory Opening Theme," "Dexter (What's His Name?)" by Coolio, "Love According to Dexter" by Phife Diggy introducing Slick and Rose, "Mandark's Plan" by YZ, "Sibling Rivalries" by De La Soul, "Secrets" by will.i.am, and "Back to the Lab" by Prince Paul.



Coolio

A four-time Emmy nominee, "Dexter's Laboratory," created by Genndy Tartakovsky, is the story of a boy genius who creates fantastic, world-changing inventions in his beloved, but off-limits laboratory, despite the pesky interference of his ditzzy older sister, Dee Dee.

"Dexter's Laboratory," the first breakout star of the World Premiere Toons series, debuted on Cartoon Network in April 1996 and is perennially among Cartoon Network's top-rated original

series. "We were thrilled to enlist an incredible roster of talent to go into their labs to create some fun, clever songs that we think Dexter fans of all ages will enjoy," said Mike Engstrom, product manager for Warner Special Products. "All the artists involved are huge 'Dexter's Laboratory' fans — and it shows in every track."

"Dexter's Laboratory" is really a celebration of creative genius, sibling rivalry and the everyday challenges of childhood," said James Porges, vice president of off channel commerce for Cartoon Network.

"The artists involved in 'The Hip-Hop Experiment' took the spirit of the show to heart, and the result is a CD that puts a new spin on the themes and characters of the show."

To celebrate the release of "Dexter's Laboratory: The Hip-Hop Experiment," Cartoon Network Cartoon Friday lineup on Aug. 16 from 8 p.m. to midnight (ET, PT) to the greatest episodes of "Dexter's Laboratory." That night, Cartoon Network will also premiere the first music video for the album, "Back to the Lab." Two additional music videos are also in production.



Photos courtesy of Lincoln

Nicole Conniff, multicultural marketing manager for Lincoln, and friends congratulate Roger M. Bobb, winner of the Lincoln Filmmaker Trophy, awarded to the Best Picture of the festival. Pictured from left: Byron Lewis, chairman & CEO, UniWorld Group Inc.; Shaun Robinson, host of "Access Hollywood" and the 2002 ABFF Awards show host; Roger M. Bobb, filmmaker; Jeff Friday, president, Film Life, and festival co-executive producer; Nicole Conniff.



Some of the stars on hand, including Robert Townsend, far left, and Chris Tucker, far right, pose with the award winner.

## Lincoln celebrates black filmmakers at 2002 festival

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

Lincoln joined leading filmmakers, actors, producers, industry executives and political figures at the sixth annual American Black Film Festival in South Beach, Miami. The five-day festival showcased the works of talented filmmakers and honored legendary film executives and rising stars.

For the third consecutive

year, Lincoln served as the exclusive automobile festival sponsor as well as title sponsor for the ABFF Awards Show.

The coveted Lincoln Filmmaker Trophy, given to the Best Picture of the Festival, was awarded to Roger M. Bobb for the film "The Riff," a classic story of friendship and betrayal, and one man's struggle to come to terms with a tragic past, all set against a backdrop of the New

Orleans jazz scene.

"The Lincoln Filmmaker Trophy celebrates artistic vision, creativity and achievement in filmmaking," said Nicole Conniff, multicultural marketing manager for Lincoln. "'The Riff' embodies all the characteristics the trophy celebrates."

In addition to the grand prize trophy, Bobb received a two-year lease on a 2003 Lincoln Navigator.

## Knowles

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several years before signing with Elektra Records in 1993.

"My childhood was performing and music, but my mom made it her job to make sure we still had fun," Knowles said. "It was like having a slumber party every night."

But Elektra dropped the girl group and they struggled for two years before Columbia agreed to give them a chance.

They had a successful run with a self-titled 1997 album and their 1999 album, "The Writing's on the Wall."

Their original manager, Andretta Tillman, died of lupus in 1997, and Knowles' father, Matthew Knowles, took over.

Two members of the group, LeToya Luckett and LaTavia Roberson, left Destiny's Child in 2000 over unhappiness with his control and were replaced with Farrah Franklin and Michelle Williams.

Franklin dropped out only

months later, and besides Beyonce Knowles, the only remaining original member is Kelly Rowland, described by Knowles as "my best friend."

The group reached a settlement with its former members, but hard feelings arose again this year over the new trio's 2001 single "Survivor," an attack on unspecified naysayers.

It includes the lines: "You thought that I'd be stressed without you/ But I'm chillin'/ You thought I wouldn't sell without you/ Sold 9 million."

Luckett and Roberson, who continue to pursue musical careers, sued the group and Sony Music, seeking unspecified damages for breach of contract, defamation, libel and fraud.

The lawsuit, which is still pending, was filed in February just days after "Survivor" won Destiny's Child another Grammy for R&B group performance.

Knowles, who co-wrote the song with her father and a third person, said her former bandmates shouldn't take the song personally because it's about every-

body who ever discouraged the group.

"I've had people from school who said we weren't going to make it. We had a label that dropped us," she said. "For me, I have no problems with anybody. I'm having a birthday in a couple months, I'm going to be 21 years old. I was 17 when (they left). It was a long time ago...It's silly."

Plans for another Destiny's Child album remain unclear as the current members pursue solo projects. Rowland also dabbled in acting with a recurring role this year on the sitcom "The Hughleys," and Williams has released a solo gospel album, "Heart to Yours."

Knowles is planning her own solo album and will soon co-star opposite Cuba Gooding Jr. in the romantic-comedy "The Fighting Temptations." She said Destiny's Child remains together and is planning two concert tours.

"It's refreshing to see the girls and come back together," she said. "All of us have this next level of confidence, and we've grown so much that it's made the group even stronger."

## Dread

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medium, television. His biggest ambition since coming to the United States has been bringing his roots and culture to television. He has done work for British television with his weekly prime-time television show, "Rockers Roadshow," which was seen by 50 million viewers, as well as the ever popular six-part reggae documentary "Deep Roots Music."

Dread is looking for a team of educated and dedicated people interested in making reggae

## Artists

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Likewise, for every hit, the industry loses \$6.3 million on albums that fail.

Among those testifying, singer Sam Moore, formerly of Sam and Dave, recalled learning in his 50s that his retirement fund

television a reality in the States.

Dread describes his live show as "strictly a roots and culture show with high energy and a collection of (his) works throughout the years." As Dread blesses the crowd with his lyrical teachings, one of the best reggae bands will be filling the air with melodic vibes. Bass player Josh Fullwood, or Fully Fulfilled, formally of the group Soul Syndicate, will accompany Dread at the venue.

Dread also has his engineer, The Scientist, whom he called "a wicked dub mixer." His unit of seasoned, professional musicians is a star-studded one that

likes to move without much hype. Also on the bill are Jah Daniel and Mastah's Peace, both brilliant reggae artists.

Dread has a new CD, "Rasta in Control," on the way. It will be available at the concert.


You can reach Mikey Dread at [www.MikeyDread.com](http://www.MikeyDread.com) for any information or to express any interest in his work for the future. He will perform Friday at Ziggy's, 433 Baitry Street. The doors will open at 8 p.m., and the show will start at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$15 at the door. If you are interested in what reggae has to offer, check out this show.

moneymaking loss and yet ... I still haven't recouped," Jordan said.

Several speakers, calling for reforms, suggested the recording industry develop a standard set of accounting rules.

A bill introduced in the Senate would close a record industry exemption from state labor law and limit contracts to seven years.

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