

ON THE TUBE

Soul Train Keeps Time, On Track With Don Cornelius

CHICAGO, -- "Soul Train," the longest running, syndicated television dance and music program, is chugging full steam ahead into its 18th successful season with founder and host Don Cornelius. "Soul Train," produced by Don Cornelius Productions, is represented in national syndication by Tribune Entertainment Company.

"Soul Train" is on the best footing it's been on since its inception," Cornelius told USA Today in a recent interview. In announcing the premiere of the 18th season, he added, "Our goal for 'Soul Train' is to make it reflect the crossover tastes in today's music while showcasing the enormous Black talent out there. This season we're adding a great crop of energetic, enthusiastic dancers to our favorite seasoned dancers, a very hot line up of the country's top R&B, rock, soul and rap performers and solid advertising sponsors," he said.

The 18th season premiered the week of September 24 and featured guest performers Thomas Dolby, Vanessa Williams and Tony Terry. Also appearing in September and October are The O'Jays, Johnny Mathis, New Kids On The Block, Nia Peeples, Tracie Spencer, New Edition and Paula Abdul.

Tribune Entertainment President Sheldon Cooper said of the continuing success of "Soul Train," "In the past two years, 'Soul Train' has increased its

Prince/LoveSexy

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he's good." Pam Clark, 21, works at Grady's Restaurant and could only agree, "He's something else!"

Judy Collins, 22, a Belk Store bookkeeper felt disappointed. She said, "It's just that it's so much kinkier than what I expected it to be."

Her date Rufus Smith, 23, works as a supervisor at Sonny's Barbeque. He expressed dismay over the inability to move about freely. "Coliseum officials cut down on a lot of the freedom," he remarked.

Harold Pell, a visitor from Inkster, Michigan seemed more than satisfied, "It's a great concert, well worth the money."

"I've been visiting relatives in Rock Hill and decided to come up just to check it out," said Pell.

Other visitors from the Palmetto State were impressed too. Arthur Knight, 21, brought Sharon Bailey, also 21, from Columbia, S.C.

College students from Benedict and Midlands Tech, respectively, they seemed to share similar viewpoints about the show. "I love him and the whole show, especially the way he came out," said Knight.

"It's my first time seeing him and I think it's real nice," said Bailey.

Charles Redfern, 32 and Veronica Streeter complained that the music was too loud.

Local actor Jeff Johnson raved about the concert, "It's a great concert," he stated, "Prince is a musical wonder, despite the gaudiness."

Meanwhile, Charlotte Police were escorting some fans to exits for possessing alcoholic beverages.

Officer R.T. Bailey received a bite and some scratches from one fan, but expressed the feeling that overall the crowd was well behaved. "No real problems," he said.

About this time the air of the Coliseum began to reverberate as Lovesexy cranked up for the second half.

Most of the musical fare in this segment of the show was of a gospelish nature with Prince orchestrating a call and response. "God is alive...yes... God is alive. He lives inside each and every one of us. He just wants to come out and play."

With that a fan in her sixties stood and threw up her arms. Her daughter said, "Mama sit down! These other folks want to see too."

With a driving, piercing force the show pushed on. Into the very soul of this delirious mass of 16,000 Charlotteans.

The crowd more than got their money's worth. There was the blues, rock, jazz and gospel propelled at the audience with such velocity that it broke right into the hearts and souls of every listener.

The performance showed Prince to be an ambitious and able practitioner of his craft.

When all is said and done the Prince concert will be noted as one of the milestones of musical mania.

It went far and beyond the commonplace, it went to true celestial heights.



Gladys Knight, whose group Gladys Knight and The Pips was featured on the very first "Soul Train" show, shares a moment with host Don Cornelius during recent taping session. Gladys Knight and

The Pips was the recipient of the 1988 Heritage Award during the second annual "Soul Train Music Awards."

national TV market penetration from 69 to 80 percent and is broadcast to at least 90 percent of Black TV households. That's

a tremendous accomplishment." Tribune Entertainment Company, a subsidiary of Tribune

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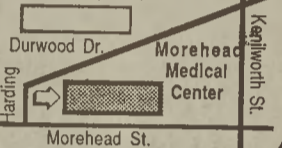
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