

Solange Knowles makes music worth listening to

Lonal X. Robinson
The Houston Sun

Finally an artist who has made some real thought-provoking, well written, not falling on just the beat to hypnotize the audience, music. Who is this artist I speak of? Solange Knowles surprisingly!!! Hell, I wasn't expecting her to be the one to have me grooving -- actually



Solange Knowles

taking time to listen to the music opposed to the many mega-stars in the industry that have ironically flopped and have been in the game longer than this angelic soul singer.

Sol-Angel and The Hadley St. Dreams is music that has been made for lovers, my mother, my father, couples and I guess, people as old as I am with an edge for the youth but those youth have to be in tune to music of the '60's and '70's to understand the concept of this album.

The music is light hearted, so there are no rugged undertones and this makes it a pleasant listen, for a nice little road trip with a group of your best friends. Well for the ladies...lol as far as for the fellas, if your gal want you to listen to it, you want be all like oh hell naw because of tracks like Valentines Day, I've Would've Been the One, & An Ode to Marvin.

Sol-Angel and The Hadley St Dreams is an album for people who are tired of listening to false pretense of calling sex driven albums...love albums, including authentic highs and lows of a relationship. I might be a little opinionated of what love is, but Solange has taken me back to the era of the music I listen to regularly because of the messages those artists promoted in their music.

She has done an A-1 job of capturing the concept of how I think an artist in her genre of R&B to be Rhythm and Blues and still make it cool and funky, upbeat and hip for all to enjoy. You other artists might need to take a few notes of this trend that is not old by any means but is deeply missed by many. Good Job Ms. Knowles!!!

Next week look for an artist called Papa Duck out of Florida. I know the name will have you like wtf but I got a hold of his mixtape "The Best Thang Going" that is oooo weee on them boys!!!

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Patti LaBelle opens SPA's 2008-09 Season



Patti LaBelle

Society for the Performing Arts (SPA), bringing the world's best to Houston, presents Grammy Award-winning artist Patti LaBelle who headlines and kicks off the season on Thursday, Oct. 2, 2008, in Jones Hall.

In the 1960s, she led the superstar "girl group" Patti LaBelle and the Bluebells; in the 1970s, she was the driving force of rock's first all-female band, LaBelle; and in the 1980s, her talent as a solo artist dominated the music scene. Revered for her versatility in belting out classic R&B renditions, pop standards and spiritual sonnets, LaBelle will entertain with her distinctive, high-octave vocal range and high-energy, passionate stage presence for one night only. She will perform such hits as "On My Own," "If You Ask Me To," "Lady Marmalade" and more.

"We are thrilled to present such a legendary artist in conjunction with our opening weekend in Jones Hall," said SPA Executive Director June Christensen. "Patti LaBelle is a wonderful entertainer and so many people of different generations truly love her music. It will be an amazing evening!"

During her 40-year career, LaBelle has achieved great success on the stage, as well as off. In addition to her music, she is an author, actress, activist and entrepreneur. She has written four best-sellers including two cookbooks, LaBelle Cuisine: Recipes to Sing About and Patti LaBelle's Lite Cuisine; her fifth and most recent writing venture is the May 2008 release of Recipes for the Good Life.

All of her cookbooks are targeted at diabetics who love to cook. In addition to writing, LaBelle has formed a partnership with the Home Shopping Network where she sells her own brand of clothing, jewelry, perfume and make-up. Last fall, television viewers would have seen LaBelle on NBC's "Clash of the Choirs," where she led a group of amateur singers, preparing them to compete for the title of America's best choir.

While LaBelle has celebrated a successful career that is respected world-wide, she has also endured and survived personal strife. Within a 10-year period, she lost her mother, three sisters and best friend to diabetes and cancer. In 1994, LaBelle was diagnosed with diabetes and shortly thereafter became a spokesperson for the American Diabetes Association. Other initiatives that remain close to her heart include adoption, foster care, Big Sisters and the United Negro College Fund.

Born Patricia Holt in Philadelphia on May 24, 1944, LaBelle grew up singing in a local Baptist choir, and in 1960 teamed with friend Cindy Birdsong to form a group called the Ordettes. One

year later, following the additions of vocalists Nona Hendryx and Sarah Dash, the group was renamed the Blue Belles. With producer Bobby Martin at the helm, they scored a Top 20 pop and R&B hit in 1962 with the single "I Sold My Heart to the Junkman," subsequently hitting the charts in 1964 with renditions of "Danny Boy" and "You'll Never Walk Alone." Throughout her singing

career Patti LaBelle has had the opportunity to collaborate with such artists as Michael McDonald, The Isley Brothers, Mary J. Blige, Elton John, Joss Stone, Fantasia, Yolanda Adams, Carlos Santana, Outkast, DMX, Wyclef Jean, Floetry, Babyface and Dianne Warren.

Tickets range from \$20-\$60 and can be purchased online at www.spa-houston.org, by phone at 713-227-4SPA or at the courtyard level ticket office at Jones Hall located at 615 Louisiana St. Hours of operation: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m., Monday - Friday and 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Saturday. For groups of 15 or more, call 713-635-8113. This performance is generously sponsored by ConocoPhillips and Continental Airlines.

About Society for the Performing Arts

Founded in 1966, Society for the Performing Arts (SPA) is the largest independent non-profit presenting organization in the Southwest. Since its inception, SPA has sponsored more than 800 performances of the world's finest music, dance and theater events, in adherence to the belief that the arts are fundamental to the overall enrichment and quality of life within the community. In addition to presenting artists, SPA seeks to provide a variety of learning experiences for adults and children through master classes, lectures and special student performances, as well as build relationships between the performing arts and other interests within the greater Houston area and throughout the state of Texas.

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