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AGGIELIFE

Kahleel proves there is life after Bronx Style Bob, Ice-T and the Rhyme Syndicate

BY STEPHEN WELLS
The Battalion



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOLLYWOOD RECORDS

In the '80s, collaborations between Aerosmith and Run-DMC, and Public Enemy Bomb Squad tracks sounding remarkably similar to heavy-metal dirge helped dissolve the boundaries between genres of popular music. To be successful, today's artist must often combine pop and metal with rap and reggae to achieve a listener accessible sound. In the company of these acts, Kahleel stands out as a true "been there, done that" talent.

Bob Kahleel said that as a child, he spent his share of hours sitting on a park bench and watching people pass him by, imagining their world and incorporating them into his own views.

"There was an endless parade of people," Kahleel said in a Hollywood Records press release. "Construction workers, secretaries, school kids, and I'd sit there and make up little movies in my mind about them. Even now, if I'm at an airport or a gig, wherever, one of my favorite things to do is to observe the human race."

Perhaps the most interesting story is Kahleel's own. Weaned on music by the Zulu Nation and Afrika Bambaataa, Kahleel assumed the stage name Bronx Style Bob and made himself a fixture in the Manhattan music scene. Eventually, he recorded and played alongside the artists he grew up listening to and relished the experience.

"It was all about breaking down boundaries and getting together," Kahleel said. "Punk rock and hip-hop, gay people and straight people, black, white and brown, graffiti artists from down the street with Andy Warhol. I was 15 years old, and it was pure paradise."

Kahleel made such a large impression in Manhattan, it reached across the nation and attracted the attention of Ice-T and the Rhyme Syndicate. It was not long before Kahleel moved to the west coast. In 1992, he released the album *Grand-*

Kahleel will perform tonight at The Texas Hall of Fame with Everlast. The New York native has played in the rock band, Super 8, and has worked with such artists as Stevie Wonder and Fishbone.

ma's Ghost. Soon, he found himself in a position as the front man of the newly created rock group Super 8. In his new group, he graced the stages of the H.O.R.D.E. tour and opened up for veteran arena rockers AC/DC.

A year of solid touring can be tiring, and Kahleel stopped touring to work on his new artistic vision. A year later, after working with guest artists from Fishbone to Ste-

vie Wonder to members of such groups as Poe and the Vandals, Kahleel released his newest work, *People Watching*.

"The album is just a collection of ideas made by a group of harmonic vendors," Kahleel said. "We push a cart of harmony in hope that people get something that's good for them. Music is a cafeteria providing food for thought, so whether famished or full, dinner is served."

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