

• ENTERTAINMENT SHORTS •

The Best Kept Secret:

Ron Patterson Is No Longer Just Pillow Talk

BY JEANELLE JONES AND KEVIN L. NICHOLS

The crowd sways back and forth to the smooth sounds coming from onstage. The audience, primarily women, chant the words along with the backup singers, "Baby we can do it, take the time, do it right." As Ron Patterson saunters on to the stage wearing a Fedora tilted to the side, a wife beater and baggy jeans, screams of excitement are heard for the sexy and talented artist known as "The Best Kept Secret."

According to Patterson, while his nickname, as well as the title of his album, *The Best Kept Secret*, may have a different meaning for the ladies, his pushing and promoting his own name straight into the audience's ears is his secret. If you've heard his name, it's because he's out there promoting himself—no managers, no record labels. "Just hold on to the name," he states. "Because when I finally do hit mainstream, you'll already know the secret."

As an independent artist, Patterson, also known as Ron P., has accomplished the impossible for most in the music industry. He has opened up for many amazing singers, including Brian McKnight, Deborah Cox, Chico DeBarge, and recently, Trina. Ron P. has also

placed his unsigned album, *The Best Kept Secret*, on iTunes, a feat many unsigned artists have not achieved. His silky, R&B melodies are intertwined with funky Hip-Hop beats. As he flows between serenading the ladies and rapping to the fellas, his gift of writing, producing and singing music shines through.

While living in the Bay Area and attending U.C. Berkeley, his love for music grew as he saw so many unsigned artists perform and push themselves to make it on their own. This newfound adoration continues to bring him to the Bay Area today to connect with other artists as well as record new music. "I want to carry the Bay Area with me on my way to the top. It's my second home and now the Bay officially has a male R&B Hip Hop Soul Artist who can truly represent it." Currently, Ron P. is working with a producer from the Bay Area named Kallisto, to "design the next level project for the sake of R&B."

Not only is Ron P. creating music in the studio, he is also in video production for the first single off his album, "We Can Do It." Completing this video will be another remarkable milestone for the soloist. What will be his next move? Outside of more music and more performances, his next focus is to do an inner-city school tour promoting education for minorities.

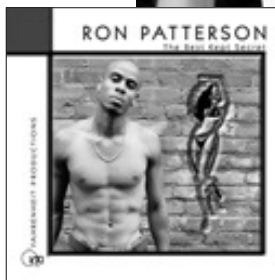
But it's not just Ron P.'s talent that has allowed him to achieve so much on his own. It's his drive and desire to make it. "Once I have a focal point, I push myself until I reach it, then move on to the next target that I am aiming for. What that final target is, I do not know just yet. I will know when I get there," says Ron P. His love for music has made him a success in all that he touches. His intense longing to make a difference in the entertainment industry will make him a star. The Best Kept Secret will be revealed.

If you want to catch a glimpse of "The Best Kept Secret", come see him live at Everett and Jones in Jack London Square on Friday, April 14th from 8:00 - 11:00 p.m. and on Saturday, April 15th at 10:00 p.m. at Kimball's Carnival.

For more information on Ron Patterson, check out his website at www.ronpatterson.com or download his album



Photo: Adam Rite



The Best Kept Secret, find out why?

Ron Patterson, from LA to the Bay and back.

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BY SHELAH MOODY AND VISALIA STANLEY

On February 25, Moss Jacobs, Barbara Barabino and Another Planet Entertainment presented the 25th annual Ragga Muffins reggae festival at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium in San Francisco. The occasion marked the triumphant return of Gregory "Cool Ruler" Isaacs, who performed several of his hits including "Number One," "Rumors," and the ubiquitous party anthem, "Night Nurse." Isaacs was backed by a stellar six member Jamaican band called Live Wyya, led by bassist Carl "C Phat" Edwards. Live Wyya has just released a new solo album on their independent Yaad Muzik label based in Ocho Rios. You can check it out at www.livewyya.com.

The Ragga Muffins festival saw the rise of a phenomenon called regatta de blanc, or white reggae, a term coined by the Police. Matsiyahu, a Hasidic Jewish canter/dj from Crown Heights in New York stole the show with his cross-cultural mix of dancehall, rock and hip-hop. Incidentally, Matsiyahu's latest CD, *Live at Stubbs*—Austin Texas is currently one of the top 20 Albums in the Bay Area. For info, visit www.matismusic.com.

The German reggae sensation known as Gentleman threw down some nice dancehall beats; a highlight of his brief set was his signature tune, "Superior."

Soul Majestic opened the show and proved themselves to be one of the hardest working reggae bands in the Bay Area. The Santa Cruz based ensemble, featuring lead vocalists Eric I and Oriana Sanders, are currently on a European tour with Jamaican dj/fire poet, Anthony B. Look for this powerful combo at this summer's Reggae On The River Festival. For info, visit www.reggaeontheriver.com or www.soulmajestic.com.

Michael Franti and his band Spearhead, the darlings of the San Francisco alternative set, closed the show. The barefoot singer, songwriter and political activist, known for his annual fall Power to the Peaceful Festival in Golden Gate Park, has just released a riveting DVD called, *I Know I'm Not Alone: A Musician's Journey Through War in the Middle East*. For info, visit www.iknowimnotalone.com.

Um ...Um ... The Boom Boom Room

What else could you say about a place that books Banyan, The English Beat, NOLA Indian Chief Big Chief Boudereaux, and legendary Rockers drummer Leroy "Horsemouth" Wallace with Groundation's Harrison Stafford under the same roof? If you're looking for a great time in San Francisco, check out the Boom Boom Room. On the corner of Geary and Fillmore, at 1601 Fillmore Street, this is a great spot to enjoy live blues, funk, ska, or jazz shows seven nights a week. Originally owned and operated by the famous blues musician John Lee Hooker, the Boom Boom Room has a "down home" feel. Even if you don't have a reason to have a party, just go on down where the doormen and waitresses are among the nicest in the world and party! Aesthetically, this is a great place. There's an intimate feeling that overwhelms you. For info, visit www.boomboomblues.com.

Clubs contributor Visalia Stanley is a San Francisco based freelance writer.