

'Funkytown' pays homage to the 'Minneapolis Sound'

Written by Alaina L. Lewis



Earlier this month, the Minnesota Music Café was filled with generations of musical greats, and their faithful followings, as the room readied itself for the premiere of the Megabien Entertainment film documentary series “Funkytown,” – a purposeful love letter addressed to the celebrated “Minneapolis Sound.” The TV program is produced by Hans Stachowiak and Monika Hurka of Megabien Entertainment.

The title draws its name from the 1980 Lipps Inc. track of the same name, made famous by front woman Cynthia Johnson, who also serves as narrator.

From Prince, to Mint Condition, and on to BoomBox and soul crooner Ray Covington, the film weaves together stories from the pioneers of the Minneapolis music scene, alongside current generation's most celebrated local artists. Another incredible aspect to the production is not only does it showcase the works of soul, rock and R&B heavyweights, but also mixes it up and exposes the beautiful diversity within our local scene with acts such as Native-American artist Joanne Shenandoah, a Grammy Award winner.

"Funkytown" isn't just about music. It also carefully highlights some of the amazing venues that have been pivotal backdrops to many of our artists' music careers. First Avenue, the Wabasha Street Caves in St. Paul, Mickey's Diner, the Loring Pasta Bar, Mill City Museum, as well as the place where the premiere was held, the Minnesota Music Café, have been permanent fixtures in the lives of our musical community and enthusiasts. The film celebrates these places for being just as synonymous to the Twin Cities, as the song "Funkytown" has been for generations of eardrums who appreciate and respect its origins.

"Funkytown" is set for release some time later this year. For more information, visit www.megabien.net