

# THE SKINNY



## THE NEW GENERATION MUSIC STATION

- HOME
- PREVIEWS
- LIFESTYLE
- FILM
- LGBT
- SOUNDS
- BEATS
- BOOKS
- COMEDY
- THEATRE
- ARTS
- AT HOME
- DVD
- GAMES
- LISTINGS
- BLOG
- FORUMS
- WIN STUFF
- RSS

### Blackalicious - 'The 4.20 from Seattle departing now'

Written by Dave Kerr  
Wednesday, 31 January 2007



**"It's a universal language and it's for anyone with a soul" - Chief Excel**

Seemingly always working at their own pace - both verbally and physically - and some 15 years in the business, this month sees Californian duo Blackalicious present their debut DVD offering, *Blackalicious: 4/20 Live in Seattle*. Like all concert documentaries worth their salt, turntablist Chief Excel and Gift of Gab provide a nostalgic insight into their domain and even bring a few talented

mates along for the ride while delivering a straight shot of the hypnotic flair they've made famous on acclaimed albums like *Blazing Arrow* and, more recently, *The Craft*.

*The Skinny* recently wound up chatting to the Chief on the eve of the DVD's release...

Seattle 4/20 seems a well rounded, concrete induction into the world of Blackalicious, how did you approach your first foray into the hip-hopumentary?

"We wanted to put together a DVD that we felt was an accurate depiction of our live show, so we approached it trying to capture every element of both what Gab does and what I do and also the other performers."

What were your personal highlights on this tour?

"Every night was a high for me just because of who was on the bill: The Lifesavas, Pigeon John and Fatlip. Every show was such a creative experience."

Some still maintain their short sighted criticisms of rap and those regions who maintain an appreciation outside of a disenfranchised Black America. What do you say to those who continue to dismiss its unifying potential?

"That they are missing the whole point of music, that it's a universal language and it's for anyone with a soul, just like rock music or anything else."

What can we expect next from Blackalicious?

"A solo project from both us (involving one another on each other's project) and with regard to a new Blackalicious record... stay stuned!"

You've got a big crew on board that tour bus, who makes the most peculiar smell?

"The bus driver..."

*Blackalicious: 4/20 Live in Seattle is out now.*

**Links:**  
***Blackalicious***

**THE STAND COMEDY CLUB**  
SCOTT CARPANO • BRONDA DEMPSEY  
SIOBHAN BRADY • JEFF INNOCENT  
ALL KENNEDY • DANIEL KOTSON  
KEVIN MCALLISTER • VLADIMIR MCTAGH  
SIMON MCANULTY • PAUL NICOL •  
TIM STAGE • SHARAH STEFFENWOLFE  
ANDY ZALZMAN  
thestand.co.uk  
6 York Place and  
16 North St. Andrew Street  
Edinburgh  
0131 556 7372  
• FREE COMEDY EVERY LUNCHTIME

**We buy Records and CDs**  
**RAT RECORDS**

**Waterstones.com**

**HMV.co.uk**

**reduce**

**GET YOUR COPY**

Username

Password

Remember me

Login

Lost Password?

Your Comments:

Only registered users can write comments, so please either login or register using the links either at the top of the page or in the left-hand column.

The Skinny is Edinburgh and Glasgow's free entertainment, culture and listings magazine. You can get it in over 500 cafes, bars, theatres, and live music venues across Edinburgh and Glasgow, and it is jam-packed full of all the good stuff going on in Scotland for the month. Want to get involved? You could **contact** us or **advertise**.