

# The *Rock & Soul* Interview George Clinton

SONGS



Neal Preston/Mirage

"We wanted to make it the biggest thing so that nobody would top it. We didn't get into props until we were able to do it as All said — 'The Greatest.'"

George Clinton and his travelling theater have taken the country by storm. Dr. Funkenstein, as he's known internationally to the millions of fans who are joining The Parliafunkadelicment Thang, is a musical genius. He's produced gold records for Parliament / Funkadelic, Bootsy's Rubber Band, the Horny Horns, Eddie Hazel and there are more new groups coming up. He's revolutionized the concept of funk and has brought theatrics on a grand scale to audiences throughout the country. George is the man everyone wants to know more about. So here it is — the interview that you asked for.

**R&S:** Do you think that another group will come along and do a more theatrical show than your P-Funk Earth Tour?

**George:** No — cause they'd actually go broke. It costs a fortune to do this kind of show. One of the things that we intended to do when we brought this spaceship was to

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"Bootsy and I go deep sea fishing for Marlin all the time."



Wendi Lombardi



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"The way we work it everyone becomes a solo artist. Everybody's a star."

**GEORGE CLINTON**

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make it the biggest thing so that nobody could top it. We didn't get into props until we were able to do it as Ali said — 'The Greatest.'

*R&S: Is it difficult to compete with the spaceship? Do some people come mainly to see that...*

*George:* Sometimes — so we just have to hang in there with the funk before the audience sees the spaceship. They're all looking for it but we play with that suspense and it all works out.

*R&S: Do you change the show at all, or is it pretty much the same show each night?*

*George:* It changes all the time — no two shows are ever exactly alike. We change a tune here or there and we're always changing the costumes and the theatrics. But we keep the major things like the denim hat, the glasses and the spaceship. It wouldn't be funky to us if we did it the same every night. The story line is always there but we improvise. We've kept the funk — the looseness.

*R&S: How important is the visual trip? Could you do it without the costumes...*

*George:* Yes, but we'd still end up acting the same way. We'd just be dressed differently. I don't think that would stop what we do as far as the show goes. It would still work and end up being visual cause that's us. Our show is a big party. All the people get off on it — they vibe in cause they're the show too...

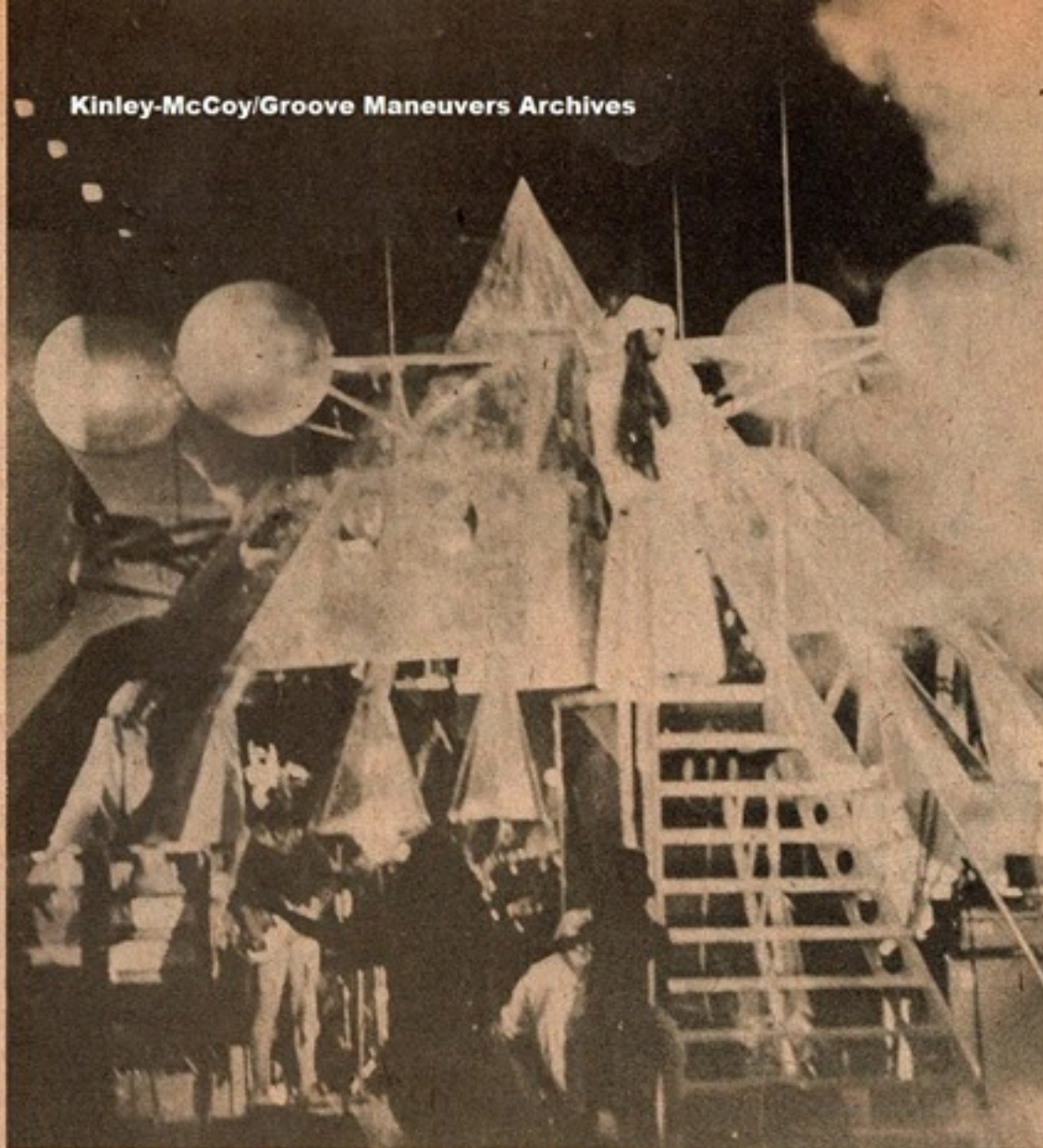
*R&S: What kind of an audience do you get?*

*George:* They're as diverse as we are on stage because we get the Funkadelic crowd and the Parliament crowd. The Funkadelic crowd is the ex-acid heads, the college kids that have been around since the late '60s.

*R&S: Are you concerned with the feedback from the audience? Is that important to you...*

*George:* Yes. When we're on stage, and they're up dancing and chanting, they turn us on and we turn them on but we aren't overly concerned with getting that feedback. If we feel satisfied with the show we know that the people will feel it too. It all comes naturally. I love performing live because it's hard to capture what we do on a

**Kinley-McCoy/Groove Maneuvers Archives**



**"Our show is a big party. All the people get off on it — they vibe in cause they're the show too..."**

record. So much of it is visual and emotional and you just have to be there to get it all.

*R&S: Do you miss the constant touring that you used to do? Those one nighters...*

*George:* No. We go out about once a week now and I'm glad cause it gives me the chance to do what I really like to do — and that's live in the studio.

*R&S: Where do you record?*

*George:* We just built a studio in Florida called P-Funk Lab so we're going to start recording there.

*R&S: Why did you choose Florida?*

*George:* Because that's one of my favorite places. I like the weather and the fishing. I love to go fishing — Bootsy and I go deep sea fishing for Marlin all the time. But I wouldn't want to live there all the time cause it's too hot.

*R&S: Do you have any new groups coming out?*

*George:* Yes — Eddie Hazel's group is called Kingdom Come and we have two girl groups: The Parlettes will record on

Casablanca Records and The Brides of Dr. Funkenstein on Atlantic. The way we work it everyone becomes a solo artist. Everybody's a star. There are a lot of clones that need labels — it's just like adopting kids. We're going to record the lawyers (he says laughingly), the managers, the engineers, the roadies ... they're all going to be groups! It's all related. If one is hitting, all of them are hitting as long as they can relate to each other. I feel like a Horny Horn, I feel like a Bootsy...

*R&S: What's happening with the comic book?*

*George:* It's just about ready. It's going to be like an underground comic but it will be pretty pop. It's funny — there's a bop gun that shoots and makes you dance.

*R&S: How are you coping with your enormous success?*

*George:* Oh, I've practiced coping for almost 10 years so it's no problem! I think everyone in the group always felt that we could do it. I love it. I'm a Leo and I've been an exhibitionist all my life. I'm a big ham.