

featuring Method Man, KRS-One, Mobb Deep's Prodigy and Kam.

Also featured are new or previously unreleased tracks by Ice Cube, Public Enemy, Wu-Tang members RZA and Cappadonna and Wyclef Jean of the Fugees teamed with Nigerian star Youssou N'Dour and young rapper Canibus. A video for that track is set to be shot this week with Beatty and co-star Halle Berry joining the rappers.

Pras, long a fan of Beatty's—especially his role as crime boss Bugsy Siegel in 1991's "Bugsy"—was surprised to see the actor backstage after a Fugees show two years ago at the House of Blues in West Hollywood.

"Warren Beatty—that's like white mainstream America," says the rapper. "You don't get more mainstream than that."

Beatty, who was turning up regularly at other rap shows around that time, didn't even mention the movie. But late last year, he and Rachman started inviting rappers to see rough cuts of the film, in which he plays a disillusioned senator who decides to go out and tell the truth. In particular, he focuses on racial and class relations—topics addressed in much rap music.

"Rap music is the music of social protest of a generation and a culture that will be heard," Beatty says in the press material accompanying the album, which will be released by Interscope Records on April 7. (The film opens on May

among those recruited by Warren Beatty to do "Bulworth" music.

The trick was to capture that fire in the songs without alienating mainstream Beatty fans.

"My song is totally hip-hop, but with a melody that has to go to the masses," says Pras. "But the music speaks for itself, even without the movie. It would work whether it was for Warren Beatty or Bill Clinton or the Antichrist."

—Steve Hochman

'PALOOZA PLANNING: While most of the summer festivals are setting their lineups, Lollapalooza organizers have had both Nine Inch Nails and Marilyn Manson turn down offers for their headlining slot, and both for the same reason: Each act is working on a new album and may not be finished in time for the tour.

"The reason's simply the timing," says Manson manager Tony Chilla. "We don't want to be in a position where we're committed to touring and the record's not finished."

Several other acts are being put in place for other slots on the trek, with Green Day, Garbage and Scott Weiland all in current discussions. There's talk of the Cure signing on as the distinguished veteran presence.

—S.H.

HOLE STORY: One Lollapalooza veteran that won't be in the package—or on any other summer tour—is Hole. If nothing else,

the band's preference is for another music club, but if none qualify it could be used as a restaurant.

"We want to have the same use that was there as the Ash Grove, with an eclectic approach," Palchikoff says. Proposals must include creative ways to promote the club in order to overcome such hurdles as a perception that parking is a problem on the pier.

One possibility is the Knitting Factory, the avant-garde New York club that is looking to open an L.A. facility. Founder Michael Dorf met with Palchikoff, as well as owners of other sites, on a recent visit to the area.

—S.H.

SMALL FACES: Press-shy Eddie Vedder is doing very few interviews around the release of Pearl Jam's "Yield" album, but the small New York-based CMJ New Music Monthly got him to do one by having comedian-actress Janeane Garofalo be the interviewer. The transcript of their conversation runs as the April cover story for the magazine, the consumer-oriented spin-off of the CMJ alternative music trade publication.

Dwight Yoakam has finished his new album, titled "A Long Way Home," featuring guest appearances by bluegrass great Ralph Stanley and singer Gangle Bramlett. Yoakam, whose acting pursuits see him alongside Matthew McConaughey in "The Newton Boys," opening March 27, and the HBO movie "When Trumpets Fade," premiering in late April, has no plans to tour at this time.

While negotiating a distribution deal, Michelle Shocked is selling a limited-edition version of a new album, "Good News," at her concerts, including a March 24-27 stand at the Mint. She's also donated the title track for "Communities in Crisis," a documentary short about the area north of her New Orleans home that's been dubbed Cancer Alley due to high incidents of cancer, attributed by some to PVC manufacturing nearby.

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film is about.

"I responded to the whole concept," says Pras. "I'm into the whole thing about corruption of the government."

release.

The films won't interfere with promotional duties surrounding the album's release, says Hole's co-manager Cliff Burnstein.

To: Michelle Shocked, Guest
c/o Hotel Davenport