

January 20, 2008

From These Roots . . .

After 65 Years, Preachers' Son, *Lee Genesis*, Debuts His *Soul*

Brooklyn's Lee Genesis was encouraged by his preacher parents to stand up and sing on soapboxes at the tender age of three. He was hot then, recalls a friend, referring to the natural talent of the then-Lee Antley, and he is smoking now.

Lee, a celebrated vocalist in the jazz set, has performed at many of New York's most celebrated clubs including Trede Heller's The Top Of The Gate, Dangerfield's Mikell's The Copacabana, Tramps, Fives, Oh Ye Fiddlesticks, Pal Joey's The African Room and The Improvisation.

But the big news is Lee is releasing his very first CD, *The Soul of Lee Genesis*, at age 65. And he credits his early years "setting up shop on the box" as the primary force that has led him to his dream.

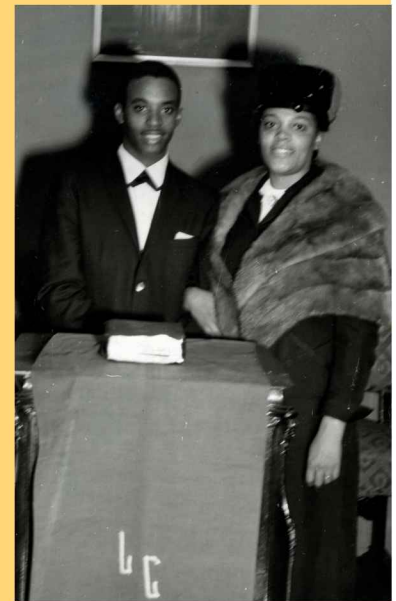
"We let the 'good word' be told via song on local street corners and on Sunday mornings at Lambert's Chapel United Holy Church in 1959 by my mother, the Late Dr. Josephine Antley," says Lee. "My mother was the congregation's powerful preacher and my father was the brilliant musical director." His dad had also been one of the



famous Selah Jubilee Singers recorded extensively in the '30s and '40s and it was he who took the time to train the young Lee in the powerful and charismatic vocal techniques so necessary to preaching the Gospel. Lee lived in Bedford-Stuyvesant, East New York and Brownsville. While his dad was in the US Navy, he lived with his mom and maternal grandmother, Grandma Brown, on Fulton Street between Saratoga and Hopkinson Aves. When Dad came home, he moved to Hancock Street between Ralph and Patchen Aves. "I lived on Stanley Avenue, Prospect Place and Hendrix Street, went to school in those neighborhoods, and graduated from Boys H.S. in 1960."

Ordained as a minister at 15 and then trained as an accountant in college, Lee Antley landed a "real" job with the New York Stock Exchange but in his late twenties began auditioning for show opportunities. With years of prior

experience singing, recording and touring with Pentecostal gospel groups (often as composer, pianist and director), "Reverend Lee" dove headlong into a pop/R&B/Broadway singing career. He effortlessly landed leading roles



Dr. Josephine Antley and "Reverend" Lee Antley at age 18

in *The Me Nobody Knows*, *Inner City Blues*,

Mary Jane and finally, *Godspell*, where he acquired his “genesis” name after taking suggestions from the *Godspell* cast members.

“They were jokingly throwing names at me, like Zachariah, Leviticus. Then Someone said ‘Genesis,’ and I said, ‘Hey, this is a beginning for me!’” So I took it and I’ve had it ever since.”

His unique “gospel” talents graced performances with distinguished jazz artists Red Garland and John Forster (Charles Mingus’ pianist) as well as with Jaki Byard and Cecil Taylor. He opened for Dakota Station and also for Bette Midler and Barry Manilow at the legendary Continental Baths. In addition, Genesis drew rave reviews with Lavern Baker, George Russell’s New York Big Band, Baird Hersey’s Year of the Ear Band, Stanton Davis’ Ghetto Mysticism Band and he rock the New York Coliseum with CITI, the area’s renowned roller disco group.

While Genesis took a long break from stage performances, he has never lost his love for telling stories through song. On this new solo CD, it’s obvious that his gospel background doesn’t hesitate to sneak to the foreground in today’s work. Lee wrote or co-wrote five of the nine cuts on *The Soul of Lee Genesis*.

His CD release party in celebration of *THE SOUL OF LEE GENESIS*, will take place on This Tuesday, January 22, at 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. at Highline Ballroom, 431 West 16th Street between 9th & 10th Avenues in New York.

Admission is FREE with a \$10 minimum at tables; first come, first seated. For musical samples, go to www.leegenesis.com. For more information on the release party, visit www.highlineballroom.com or call Highline

Ballroom at (212_ 414-5994.

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F E E D B O M B

LEE GENESIS: A RARE NEW YORK APPEARANCE BY SOUL TITAN LEE GENESIS AT HIGHLINE BALLROOM ~ TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, AT 8:00 PM AND 10:00 PM ...



Venue listing for **Highline Ballroom** in Chelsea, Manhattan. ... The Soul of **Lee**

Genesis Jan 22. HopStop subway directions. From: (street address) ...