

Giannis! The “New Age” Dr. J

By John Harris Jr. | VILLAGER Sports Columnist

(VILLAGER) - If stars are indeed born during the NBA Playoffs, Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo needs no introduction.

First things first. Giannis, like most superstars, is known by his first name. Since his last name, as well as his first name (sounds like Yannis) is difficult to pronounce, let's call him G-Money for short.

As a sports journalist, I don't normally root for teams or individual athletes. However, I'm making an exception in the case of G-Money. I want to see Milwaukee defeat the Toronto Raptors in the Eastern Conference finals and advance to face the two-time defending champion Golden State Warriors in the NBA Finals.

With all due respect to Kawhi Leonard in Toronto and Damian



Giannis Antetokounmpo

Lillard in Portland, true basketball fans want to see if G-Money can beat Golden State in the finals all by himself.

Which brings me to the main point of this column. People need to see G-Money up close to realize how talented he is and how much he resembles the legendary Julius Erving, better

known as Dr. J.

There's been a lot of comparisons thrown around about who's the best NBA player of all time. I'm not saying Dr. J is better than Michael Jordan, LeBron James, Kobe Bryant, Kevin Durant, Magic Johnson, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Wilt Chamberlain, Oscar Robertson, or G-Money,



Julius “Dr. J” Erving

for that matter, but he belongs somewhere in the conversation.

If you never saw Dr. J play in person, I feel sorry for you. At 6-foot-7, Erving possessed huge hands that could grip a basketball like a grapefruit. He jumped so high that not even NASA could chart his vertical leap. Check him out on

YouTube if you don't believe me.

Erving's career began in the ABA, where he played and won a pair of championships in virtual obscurity. But his legend grew to mythical proportions when he joined the Philadelphia 76ers and led the Sixers past the Los Angeles Lakers to win an NBA title.

I grew up in Philadelphia and saw Dr. J play in person at the Spectrum many times. When I watch G-Money perform four decades later, it's uncanny how much he resembles Erving on the court.

Neither player is known for having a lethal jump shot, so they do a lot of their damage around the basket. To see the 7-foot G-Money ascend in the lane, twist his body like a pretzel and dunk over and around defenders is like recalling a Dr. J house call.

Like Erving, G-Money, bears a heavy burden of carrying his team in the playoffs. Milwaukee is good, posting the best record in the league this year, but the Bucks have one legitimate star - G-Money.

Can G-Money lead the Bucks all the way to the title? It's going to be fun watching him try!

Dave Koz and Friends Summer Horns Featuring Kenny Lattimore, Gerald Albright, Rick Braun, Aubrey Logan

By Naomi Richard | VILLAGER Entertainment Editor

(VILLAGER) - On July 27, 2019, musical genius will descend on the *Live Music Capital of the World* in the form of **Dave Koz and Friends Summer Horns Featuring Kenny Lattimore, Gerald Albright, Rick Braun and Aubrey Logan**. Tickets are on sale for this night of jazz to be held at **One World Theatre**, located at 7701 Bee Caves Road in Austin, Texas.

In a career that spans more than three decades, saxophonist Dave Koz has racked up an astoundingly impressive array of honors and achievements: nine Grammy® nominations, nine number one albums on Billboard's Current Contemporary Jazz Albums chart, numerous world tours, playing for multiple presidents, a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and more. A platinum selling artist, Koz is also known as a humanitarian, entrepre-

neur, radio host and instrumental music advocate.

Now, he has released one of the most exciting recordings of his long career. Five years after recording their initial tribute to the great horn sections of soul, jazz and pop, Dave Koz and Friends' Summer Horns II From A To Z reprises the all-star, crowd-pleasing format of that smash hit outing. The album features Koz, Gerald Albright, Richard Elliot, Rick Braun and Aubrey Logan, plus guest vocalists Jonathan Butler, Kenny Lattimore and more.

Today we turn the spotlight on Kenny Lattimore, a dynamic part of this musical empire. Having just been featured on **TV One's** award-winning documentary series **UN-SUNG**, this Grammy® nominated powerhouse, seems back and with a vengeance.



Kenny Lattimore

Lattimore came straight out of Washington, D.C. in the mid '90s with a smooth R&B sound and look to match. Raised on gospel and the soulful music of popular icons **Marvin**

Gaye and **Donny Hathaway**, Lattimore made his mark in 1997 with the breakout single *For You*. The song would eventually become an enduring wedding classic. When he married



R&B Diva **Chanté Moore** and recorded two highly regarded duet albums, his romantic life appeared to mirror his love songs. An unfortunate split from his record label coupled with his dramatic breakup with Moore, however, led to public speculations about his private life that overshadowed his career.

The singer has garnered Grammy®, Soul Train and Stellar Awards nominations as well as the NAACP Image Award for Best New Artist. His unique vocals have graced projects by a diverse array of artists from **MusiQ Soulchild** and **Rachelle Ferrell** to **Nancy Wilson, Brian Culbertson** and **Kanye**

West. Dave Koz has created a magical group of A-List artists, including Lattimore, that blends the sounds we love to hear and Koz had this to say, *"I want to authentically perform music that covers all the genres and emotions that I have lived and loved throughout the years. From breakup and makeup songs, to the highs and lows, from gospel to jazz to R&B — I want to make sure each album reveals more about me."*

Don't miss this combination of greatness at **One World Theatre** on July 27, 2019 for two shows, 7:00pm and 9:30pm. For tickets visit <https://oneworldtheatre.org/>.

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