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Sound of distinction

By Ursula Watson

Hear funky, soulful music unlike anything on your iPod or that monotonous loop called radio when acid-jazz pioneers Greyboy Allstars perform at the Magic Bag Sunday night.

The band is back on stage after a six-year hiatus -- so they could recharge creatively and pursue individual projects -- with a rather timely new release, called "What Happened to Television?"

Formed in San Diego in 1993 by DJ Greyboy (Andreas Stevens), the band is like a musical time machine performing grooving sounds of classic funk, jazz and soul. Each member of the Greyboy Allstars, which includes Karl Denson, Elgin Park, Robert Walter, Eric Kalb, and Chris Stillwell, is prolific and seasoned.

Oddly, in its 15-year career, the band has only recorded a total of 90 minutes of music, says guitarist Park. "We don't have any ambitions. We don't care about getting bigger. I think people respond to the fact that we are not commercial."

BLAKE ZIDELL & ASSOCIATES

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Still, the group plans to remedy the lack of recorded material and hit the studio this year to record a new album.

While Parks loves various types of music, he says funk, soul and jazz sounds give him a distinct pleasure. "It is physical and outside the world of language. It does what music is supposed to do, lift your spirit and your body responds."

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