

Compton's Most Wanted

Named numerous times—but never charged—as the killer of Tupac Shakur, Orlando Anderson dies in a gunfight

On the streets he was known as Lando, or Baby Lane. But Orlando Tive Anderson, an aspiring screenwriter and reputed member of Compton, California's Southside Crips, came to be known to the world as the key suspect in the unsolved murder of rap star Tupac Shakur. Around 3 o'clock in the afternoon on Friday, May 29, Anderson was one of three men shot to death at a car wash in Compton. Authorities say his killing was not in retaliation for Shakur's death, as some have speculated. But Anderson, who left four daughters behind, had an uncanny way of showing up on the deadliest nights in hip hop history.

September 7, 1996, Las Vegas: Anderson's brawl with Tupac and the Death Row Records entourage was caught on tape by a surveillance camera in the lobby of the MGM Grand Hotel. Three hours later, just blocks away, Tupac was fatally shot as he sat in the passenger seat of a black BMW driven by Death Row CEO Suge Knight. Although Las Vegas police questioned Anderson about the murder, he was never charged with the crime. In last December's VIBE, though, Knight named Baby Lane as the murderer during a conversation with writer Sanyika Shakur (a.k.a. Monster Kody) at the California Institute for Men prison in Chino. Anderson maintained his innocence in that same issue and said he was a big fan of Tupac's music. However, there had been unpleasant ramifications due to the accusations. "I've been threatened a lot," he said. "I just stay in the house all the time." One law enforcement official confided that he was surprised Anderson lived as long as he did. Meanwhile, Compton police were actively investigating him for a murder unrelated to Shakur's.

Compton sources familiar with Anderson say that on March 8, 1997, he and his uncle (and fellow reputed Southside Crip) Keith "Keefee D" Davis attended VIBE's party at the Peterson Automotive Museum in Los Angeles, where Christopher "the Notorious B.I.G." Wallace was killed in a drive-by shooting. Two months later, police seized Davis's dark Chevy Impala from the backyard of his girlfriend's house in Compton. The vehicle matched the description of the car used in Biggie's murder. Davis was never charged in that case, but the day before Anderson's death, he was indicted by federal agents on unrelated drug charges.

On May 29, local Compton sources say Anderson and 24-year-old Michael Reed Dorrough were hanging out at Gig's hamburger stand when they spotted Michael

Stone, 41, and his nephew Jerry Stone, 24, across the street at Rob's Carwash. Reportedly, the Stones—who were believed to be affiliated with the Corner Pocket Crips—owed Anderson and Dorrough money.

JESUS IS THE ANSWER reads a hand-painted sign at the carwash. But it was apparently not redemption that was on the minds of Anderson and Dorrough as they approached their rivals. Compton police say Dorrough drew his handgun and started spewing bullets. Jerry Stone took out his own pistol and returned fire. All four men were shot.

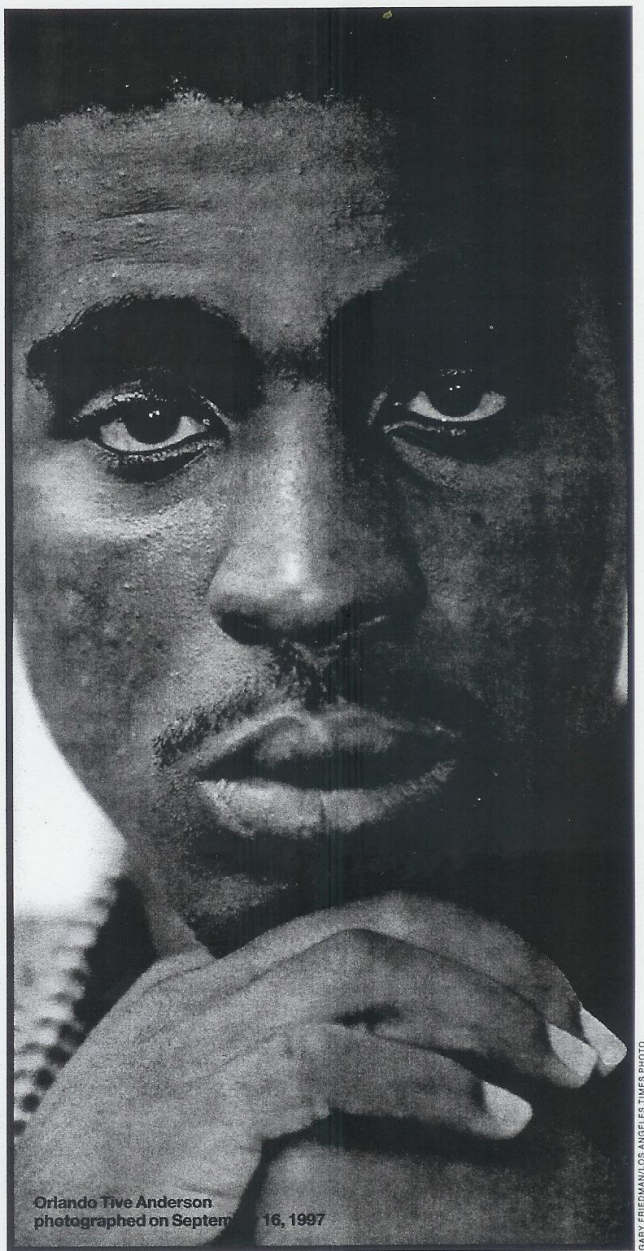
Leaving the Stones sprawled and bleeding on the pavement—they'd later die at local hospitals—the wounded Anderson and Dorrough managed to make a getaway in a black Chevy Blazer. They only got a little over a block away, though, before a flat tire stopped them less than a mile from the Compton Police Department.

Law enforcement says Anderson was still conscious and complaining of pain when paramedics arrived. Dorrough, who suffered only an arm wound, has been charged with three counts of capital murder (under California's felony murder rule, perpetrators are held accountable for all deaths that occur during the commission of a serious crime). Hours after the shooting, the homes of two of the Stones' family members were riddled with drive-by bullets.

On June 6, both Anderson and his grandmother were laid to rest after a double funeral at L.A.'s Simpson Family Mortuary. Utah Williams, 84, died of natural causes the very same day her grandson was shot. Dorrough, who remained incarcerated at Twin Towers Jail, was named an honorary pallbearer at the ceremony.

Just days before the killing, according to sources familiar with the case, Anderson settled for \$80,000 in a lawsuit against Afeni Shakur, Tupac's mother. He had sought nearly a million dollars for physical injuries and mental anguish suffered during the MGM Grand melée. Afeni countersued last September with a wrongful-death suit contending Anderson had killed her son. She filed her legal documents along with a Compton Police Department affidavit in which a confidential informant fingered Anderson as Tupac's killer.

"I'm not in a position to confirm information about the settlement," says Anderson's attorney, Renée L. Campbell, adding that she is devastated by his death. "He was a wonderful person who was unfairly named as a suspect in a crime he obviously did not commit."



Orlando Tive Anderson photographed on September 16, 1997

GARY FRIEDMAN/LOS ANGELES TIMES PHOTO

"The [Shakur murder] case is not closed," says Las Vegas detective Brent Becker, "—not by a long shot." Now the information on Anderson's death will be filed in the city's Metropolitan Police Department murder books, along with more than a dozen bogus confessions to the killing of Tupac and more than a thousand tips—including one that holds the ghost of legendary Chicago mobster Anthony Spilotro responsible.

Those who were waiting to hear Orlando Anderson admit to the murder of Tupac

Shakur will go forever unsatisfied. But to some, the man they called Baby Lane was more than a suspect in a national manhunt. As Michael Reed Dorrough wrote in the Tribute section of his best friend's funeral program, "Lando, we will meet back up. My loved one, I know where you're going. You'll have it velvet for me when I touch base with you again. Lando, your last words while I held you will always remain the most special words I've ever heard, and now I'll end by saying to you: Lando, I love you too." *Lena Nozizue*