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DECEMBER 2006 • ISSUE #12
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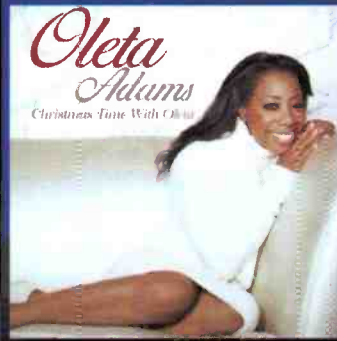
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DIANA KRALL *Christmas Series*



set produced by Adams and recorded in her home studios in Kansas City contains her take on traditional songs and some special-ones like "There's Still My Joy," the cut she performed with Melissa Manchester on her annual Colors of Christmas concert trek. Holiday Wishes From Me To You is the title of Jon B's first holiday set, released on Max Gousse's Arsenal/Fontana label. Holiday classics are included along with an original soul ballad "How You Down." Jon B. recently returned from performing for the troops overseas as part of the USO/Armed Forces tour. Christmas Treasures is an uplifting LP featuring world-class guitarists playing on the McPherson acoustic guitar from Autumn Records. Guitarist Steve Oliver readied Snowfall for smooth jazz lovers through Koch Records, with two original songs—"Watching the Snowfall" and Crystals in the Snow." Brian Culbertson's A Soulful Christmas on GRP/Verve delivers holiday standards with swingin' big band to fatback funk. He performs a special Christmas concert with special guests Bobby Caldwell, Ray Parker, Jr, Warren Hill and Eric Darius. Common, Bow Wow and Seal are featured in :30-second commercials touting Gap's "Holiday In Your Hood." Common and his daughter Omoya Lynn both appear in the spots for which Common wrote an original song titled "Holiday In Your Hood," sampling Madonna's 1983 hit "Holiday." Anita Baker will be performing songs from her 2005 holiday release, Christmas Fantasy, on a five-city tour, joining jazz saxophonist Dave Koz on Christmas Day for the NBC televised holiday special "The Capital One Holiday Celebration on Ice." Miami rapper Trick Daddy gets in the spirit by partnering his Trick Luvs Da Kids Foundation with KB Toys to bring Christmas cheer to underprivileged youth in the Miami area. Darryl Hall and John Oates, spokespersons for this year's Toys for Tots fundraising campaign, recorded the heartfelt Home For Christmas exclusively for Transworld that donates a portion of monies raised from its sales to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign. From Music World's Kids Rap Radio Series comes holiday rap songs sung by kids for kids. 'Tis the season!

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Tis' the Season

This year's holiday music runs the gamut from a dipset rapper Jim Jones new LP, A Dipset X-Mas, featuring songs like "Ballin' On Xmas" and "If Everyday Was Xmas" featuring Diddy, T.I., Young Dro and Baby, to gospel duo Mary Mary's praise and worship A Mary Mary Christmas that includes the West Coast vibe of "California Christmas." Oleta Adams releases her first entrée into the seasonal sets with the Koch release Christmas Time with Oleta. The 10-song

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BIG SHOTS



① The 4th Annual Songs of Hope fundraiser held at the palatial Esquire House 360 in Beverly Hills raised more than \$250,000 to benefit the City of Hope and its advancements towards the treatment, research and education of cancer and other life-threatening diseases. Randy Jackson emceed the gala, which honored Stevie Wonder with the Clive Davis Legends of Music Award. Jermaine Dupri received the Songs of Hope Innovator in Music award and Gavin Degraw, the Martin Bandier New Horizons award. (l-r) Randy Jackson; Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds; Janet Jackson; Jermaine Dupri; Clive Davis, Chairman and CEO of BMG U.S.; Stevie Wonder, Gavin DeGraw—Photo by Lester Cohen/Wire Image ② Russell Simmons has been on a fact-finding mission to South Africa and Botswana to explore how the diamond industry, in conjunction with Simmons Jewelry Company, can empower the lives of African people and communities where diamonds are a natural resource. Shown standing on the edge of the 400 meter deep mine pit (l-r): Russell Simmons, Co-Founder of Simmons Jewelry Company; Dr. Benjamin Chavis, Co-Chairman of the Hip-Hop Summit Action Network; and Sheila Kahma, Managing Director of DeBeers in Botswana.—Photo by Chi Modu ③ Dionne Warwick and Carl Lewis at the Black Aids Institute Heroes in the Struggle 2006 Awards at the Director's Guild of America in Los Angeles.—Photo by Willie Tassain (323) 232-6391 ④ Music Producer Ollie E. Brown congratulates Dionne Warwick at the recent Heroes in the Struggle salute, held at the Directors Guild, for her work on behalf of the Black Aids Institute.—Photo by Willie Tassain (323) 232-6391 ⑤ Casting director Robi Reed and Phil Wilson, Executive Director of the Black Aids Institute at Heroes in the Struggle 2006 Awards—Photo by Willie Tassain (323) 232-6391

Publisher's Notes

You Gotta Believe!

Traditionally at this time of year, the world is reinvigorated with hope. Whether Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Jewish or agnostic, the true holiday spirit is about new beginnings, new life---about hope. That capacity to hope makes humankind unique. This issue is filled with stories of hope.

BRE's Dreamgirls Cover Story is about the new Paramount/Dreamworks film opening appropriately on Christmas Day that relates the dream of making it, of becoming a star. As Jamie Foxx's character says in the film however, no matter how talented you are, "What you need is a break."

This cover story is also about a little girl named Beyoncé, who stars in 'Dreamgirls,' who had a similar dream. And she had a father and family who believed in her dream and set about to create that break. Now a name known around the world, Beyoncé and the Music World brands are about providing that break for others.

But, you have to be willing to work hard and believe.

In our West Regional Report, LaDonna Slade and Denise Danielle-Johnson from Oakland are two young women who believe. With a fledgling virtual ministry, a radio show and a new CD, they gave up their corporate jobs and assured income to pursue their dreams.

"American Idol," which kicks off again in January, is about that hope. "American Idol" winner Jennifer Hudson, who shines in "Dreamgirls," just signed a record deal with J'Arista, BMG Records---the break to help her dream come true.

Fantasia Barrino's fairytale story is a bookend to the Dreamgirls. Millions have viewed her autobiographical story on Lifetime Television or read her book or seen her on American Idol or heard her debut LP. Her touching story is inspiring to us all as she begins yet another chapter in her life this month with her sophomore self-titled release. A new, beautiful confident young woman, Fantasia loudly sings, "I believe."

Even BRE Magazine was a dream, launched on hope that had enough believers to make it become a reality. It's still publishing 31 years later, thanks to all those believers.

So as we each deal with our own challenges this season, let us also look at dreams exponentially, realizing that for each 'break' we make for someone to realize a dream, the world is filled with hope that others will also come true.

To quote "Dreamgirls:" "One dream will change everything... you just gotta believe."



By Sidney Miller, Jr.
Founder/Chairman



NEWS

Beyoncé B-Day Bags Platinum & Gold



The RIAA certified Beyoncé's *B-Day* both Platinum and Gold only one month after its release on the songbird's 25th birthday in September. Other October Gold certifications were P.Diddy's Danity Kane

from MTV's "Making The Band."

TLC's Chilli To Solo



Chilli

Akon's Konvict Muzik imprint distributed through Interscope has announced that it has on deck for mid-2007 the solo debut of multi-platinum selling group TLC member Rozanda "Chilli" Thomas.

Akon himself will help produce along with Missy

Elliott and Timbaland and will.i.am.

James Brown, Prince Inducted into UK Music Hall of Fame

The U.K. Music Hall of Fame inducted seven artists into its Hall of Fame in November, including James Brown, Prince, Bon Jovi, Led Zeppelin, Dusty Springfield, Brian Wilson and Rod Stewart. Sir George Martin was given an Honorary Music Award.

Hidden Beach Signs with UMGD

Hidden Beach Recordings (HBR) and Universal Music Group Distribution (UMGD) have entered into a distribution agreement. The deal provides for UMGD to distribute the independent record label's product throughout North America and covers all HBR's subsidiaries such as the Hidden Beach Celebrations Series, Hidden Beach International, and Still Waters, the label's inspirational imprint.

"I've wanted to work with Steve and his team for some time," commented Jim Urie, President, UMGD regarding Hidden Beach Founder/CEO Steve McKeever. "Over the past few years, Hidden Beach has experienced great success, thanks in part to Steve's unique vision and his dynamic roster of artists. He's a true entrepreneur, and Hidden Beach is exactly the kind of music company we want to partner with at UMGD."

"We are very happy to partner with a company whose strength and reach is matched by its vision and innovative spirit," stated McKeever. "Jim and his team's understanding and appreciation of this special business mirrors our own, and Universal provides the ideal setting for us to unveil 'Chapter Two' of the Hidden Beach experience."

The first offering under the new partnership was the October 17th release of TribalJazz. The New Year will bring a new studio album from Grammy-winner Jill Scott.

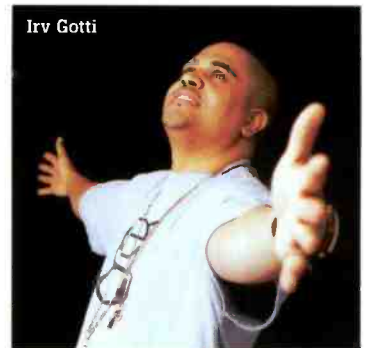
Irv Gotti Signs Vanessa Carlton

The Inc. founder Irv Gotti is trying to rebuild his musical empire by signing young singer and songwriter Vanessa Carlton, the first new artist on the label since Gotti entered into a joint venture with Universal Motown Records.

The classically trained musician hit the pop charts in 2002 with her debut and has released two previous albums and the hit singles "A Thousand Miles" and "Ordinary Day."

"Vanessa is easily one of the best singer-songwriters that I have ever been around in my entire life," said Gotti. "I thank God for bringing us together and for her believing in me and giving me the opportunity to show the world what I have seen, which is V being totally amazing." Carlton's new album will be released in 2007.

In related news, Gotti is currently producing and starring in his own VH1 reality series tentatively titled "The Irv Gotti Project," which is said to chronicle his comeback in the music industry after being acquitted of federal money laundering charges in 2005.



Irv Gotti



Kanye West Races To Make A Difference

Kanye West sponsored a race-car in the Formula BMW World Finals held November 24th-26th in Valencia, Spain. West's car showcased the Bear Mascot featured on his album covers, along with the logo of two of the star's favorite charities; the Kanye West Foundation and the United Nations World Food Program.

"The ability to make a positive difference in the world has always been a dream of mine, and Kanye West Foundation is the realization of that dream," said West. "To be able to spread the word about both the Kanye West Foundation and the UN World Food Program in such an exciting setting is particularly gratifying."

More information on Kanye West Foundation can be found at www.KanyeWestFoundation.org. And visit the World Food Program (We Feed People) website: www.wfp.org.



Kanye West

Jennifer Hudson Signs to J Records

"American Idol" finalist and breakout star of "Dreamgirls," Jennifer Hudson has been signed to J/Arista Records. Hudson was voted off of the 2004 season of "American Idol," but she beat out nearly 800



Jennifer Hudson

contenders to win the role of "Effie" in "Dreamgirls." There is already Oscar buzz surrounding her performance.

About her future with J Records Hudson has said, "Clive Davis is a legend and I feel more than honored to be associated with him. Because of his vision and hands-on approach, it already feels like home. I can't wait for us all to make beautiful music together." Hudson will begin recording her first album next year.

Block Enterprises/Bad Boy South Renew Pact

Sean "Diddy" Combs and Russell "Block" Spencer announced that they have renewed their joint venture. The Atlanta-based Block Enterprises and Bad Boy South first joined forces for the 2005 release of the hit debut album from Boyz N Da Hood. Then early in 2006, the two labels formalized their partnership. The new joint venture was a success with Yung Joc's *New Joc City* now nearing the RIAA Platinum mark.

Block Enterprises/Bad Boy South are working on new albums from Boyz N Da Hood and Yung Joc, as well as the solo debut of Boyz member Big Gee and the first album from Gorilla Zoe. Block/Bad Boy releases will continue to be marketed and distributed by Atlantic Records.

"As the South market grew, Diddy and Bad Boy realized they needed to be involved. I was looking to take the music we make in the South to another level, and the collaboration between Block Enterprises and Bad Boy South was the perfect avenue for both of our companies. Look at the success we have already attained. When the machine is working successfully, you don't look to fix it, but to add to it to make it better. The renewal of our deal is going to make the Block/Bad Boy South partnership even bigger," said Spencer, who first made his mark at Suave House Records overseeing projects for 8Ball & MJG, Tela, and Crime Boss.

Timbaland Going for 'Shock Value'

Artist and super producer Timbaland has a diverse lineup of stars that will appear on his next album slated for March '07 release on his Mosley Music imprint on Geffen/Interscope. He promises diversity and is collaborating with everyone from Dr. Dre, 50 Cent and Jay-Z to alternative rockers like She Wants Revenge and The Hives.

The record is tentatively titled *Timbaland Presents Shock Value*. This album will span different musical genres. "I'm not just Hip-Hop," Timbaland said of his music. "My mission is to take over Top 40 radio — what they call popular music, different genres of music — and reach

all types of people . . . I'm about to get the Fall Out Boys, Björk, Elton John," Timbaland added. As for his song with Sir Elton, "Last Piece of the Puzzle," he said, "It was cool. I didn't have him sing, I had him play. I was like, 'Go ahead, John.' I might get a choir to sing on top of it."

Tim's first single, "Give it to Me" featuring Nelly Furtado and Justin Timberlake is raising some eyebrows. Gossip Web sites are speculating that Timberlake's verse is aimed at Janet Jackson and the nipplegate controversy. Timberlake reportedly sings, "I saw you tryin' to act cute on TV, 'Just let me clear the air'/ We missed you on the charts last week/ Damn, that's right, you wasn't there/ Now if sexy never left, then why is everybody on my shit?/ Don't hate on me just because you didn't come up with it."



In Memoriam

Ruth Brown (1928-2006)

Ruth Brown, whose musical legacy was matched by her fight for royalty reform for herself and other R&B Artists, passed away on November 17, 2006 in a Las Vegas area hospital from complications following a stroke and heart attack.

Called "The Original Queen of Rhythm & Blues" and "Miss Rhythm," the nickname given her by Mr. Rhythm, Frankie Lane, Ruth Brown was

also credited as the first star made by Atlantic Records. Her two-dozen hits from 1949 to the late '50s helped establish the New York label's predominance in the R&B field, a track record for which the young label was referred to as "The House That Ruth Built." Brown's signature songs included such hits as "So Long," "Teardrops from my Eyes," "5-10-15 Hours," and "(Mama) He Treats Your Daughter Mean."

Her career plummeted in the '60s but she revived it in the mid-'70s recording jazz and blues for various labels, touring overseas, performing off-Broadway in "Staggerlee," in the film version of "Hairspray," and on Broadway in the musical revue "Black and Blue," for which she was a Tony Award. She hosted the Harlem Hit Parade series on NPR and received a Grammy in 1989 for the album *Blues on Broadway*. Inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1993, Brown was also recognized by The Blues Foundation with a Lifetime Achievement Award and received two W.C. Handy Awards. Her autobiography, "Miss Rhythm," received the Ralph Gleason Award for Music.

Brown was given a Pioneer Award from the Rhythm and Blues Foundation, an organization that was founded as a direct result of her efforts to foster wider recognition and provide financial assistance to Rhythm and Blues musicians of any stature.

Her friend and fellow musical artist Bonnie Raitt commented: "Ruth was one of the most important and beloved figures in modern music. You can hear her influence in everyone from Little Richard to Etta, Aretha, Janis and divas like Christina Aguilera today. She set the standard for sass, heartache and resilience in her life as well as her music, and fought tirelessly for royalty reform and recognition for the R&B pioneers who never got their dues. She taught me more than anyone about survival, heart and class. She was my dear friend and I will miss her terribly."

Kendall Minter, Chairman of the Rhythm and Blues Foundation, which is planning a public memorial to honor her in New York City in January, commented: "The Foundation is deeply saddened by the loss of not only our beloved co-founder of the organization but also by what will now become a glaring absence in the fight for Pioneer R&B Artists to achieve recognition, dignity and support of their work. The Foundation, its Board and Staff celebrate Ruth and her life and hope that others will now pick up her call."

Funeral services were held November 27 and 28 in her hometown of Portsmouth, VA.

For more information, go to her official website at www.RuthBrown.net.



STATS

www.BREMagazine.com



Sean "Diddy" Combs



DeVyne Stephens



Britt Morgan-Saks



Michael Williams



Chuck Field

Diddy Signs to Violator Management

Chris Lighty, CEO Violator Management, announced that he had signed a multi-media management deal with Sean "Diddy" Combs to direct the music career of the hip hop artist, producer, designer and entrepreneur. The timing coincides with the release of Combs latest album *Press Play* on Bad Boy Entertainment/Atlantic and a reported mending of an artist dispute between Combs and other Violator client 50 Cent. Violator, a multi-media management company representing such clients as LL Cool J, three 6 Mafia, Busta Rhymes and Fantasia, says the company is looking to "expand Diddy's reach and influence exponentially in music."

Akon Taps DeVyne Stephens

DeVyne Stephens, who recently brokered a new label deal for artist Akon with Interscope/Geffen for Akon's Kon Live label, has been tapped to serve as Executive VP of the new label. CEO of his own Upfront Megatainment, Stephens signed Akon to his label in the late '90s after he was released from prison. The artist/songwriter/producer Akon currently has one of the top albums in the country with his sophomore release *Konvicted* (Upfront/Konvict/SRC/Universal Motown). "I like to see the artists on my label grow to be entrepreneurs just as I did. We are a family that builds each other up," commented Stephens.

Upfront's current artist roster also includes male vocal group Red Dirt—"a mix between Jodeci and Mint Condition"—Kandi Burrus (formerly of platinum-selling R&B group Xscape), rap group FA, and soul vocalist Rod Michaels as well as producers and songwriters. Red Dirt will be the label's next release in early 2007.

Famous Music Names Britt Morgan-Saks Sr. Creative Director Urban

Famous Music Publishing, whose roster includes such artists as Busta Rhymes and Akon, has named Britt Morgan-Saks as its Senior Creative Director Urban, according to Ira Jaffe, President and COO. Morgan-Saks previously managed the day-to-day executive needs of the president of Carol's Daughter, the health and beauty company co-owned by Steve Stoute, Jay-Z, Tommy Mottola, Will Smith and Jimmy Iovine. She also assisted in the creative and financial development of the brand. Prior to that she was an artist manager and Director of Operations for DGI Management-DeGraf, Inc for artists such as DJ/producer Mark Ronson, DJ Cassidy and Atlantic group Pretty Ricky. The Harvard graduate began her career in A&R and New Media at Def Jam and Epic respectively before taking on Director of Special Events and Marketing for noted NYC clubs Bungalow 8 and Lot 61.

Her varied entertainment experience makes her "a find!" says Jaffe, who says she will operate out of the company's NY offices. "She will be a major force in our business in the years to come." And, in fact, she has already signed several artists and producer Develop, whose credits include Lil Wayne's "Fireman" and collaborations with Juelz Santana.

RCA Ups Michael Williams

EVP Richard Palmese has promoted Michael Williams to SVP Rhythm/Crossover for the RCA MUSIC GROUP. Previously VP in the L.A. offices, Williams has been vital in breaking Mario and Cassidy, among others, in this format. Previously head of his own One Nation Management & Marketing, he's also been a consultant to Dreamworks and Atlantic Records. He actually began his career at MCA as a regional director working with such acts as New Edition and Jody Watley and re-establishing careers for Elton John and Tom Petty, before joining Motown as VP Crossover Promotion, where he worked with Diana Ross and Boyz II Men. One of the first African Americans to invade Pop/Rock promotions some 20 years ago, Williams has "passion for the music coupled with his uplifting spirit" says Palmese that makes him "a daily inspiration."

Williams will continue to promote the labels' artists at rhythm and crossover stations, maximizing exposure on a national level and guiding the staff to break artists at the format from the Los Angeles offices.

Blackground Appoints Chuck Field

Jomo Hankerson, GM of Blackground Records, announced the appointment of Chuck Field to Senior VP of the label. Field, who will be based in Los Angeles and report to Jomo and CEO Barry Hankerson, was most recently VP Crossover Promotion for Universal Motown, where he worked with such artists as Nelly, Lil Wayne, Birdman and David Banner. Prior to that he held a similar roles at Jive Records, where he worked with R. Kelly, N'Sync, Backstreet Boys and Britney Spears. He was also Sr. Director of Promotions at Sony 550 Music, working with such artists as Celine Dion, Ginuwine and Desree. With extensive experience in regional on-air and programming markets such as San Francisco, San Diego, Sacramento and New Orleans, Field says his first entrée into the business was through radio when he worked at WAZE and WHIA in 1986 in Dawson, GA.

"His keen understanding of the music landscape, coupled with his tremendous vision will help launch the next great chapter of Blackground Records," commented Jomo Hankerson.

Garnet Reid Named Skeleton's VP Urban Promotions

Skeleton Key entertainment, the mainstream entertainment division of Mega Media Group, Inc., has tapped radio veteran Garnet Reid to lead its urban promotions department. Reid, most recently head of his independent promotions company Focused, Inc that played an integral role in breaking records for Jim Jones, Juelz Santana, Camron and Talib Kweli, was also previously Sr. Director of National Rap Promotions for Universal Records where he worked with Cash Money, Nelly, Juvenile, Lil Wayne and Erykah Badu. He's also held promotions positions at Pay Day records and Tommy Boy Records.

David Kokakis, President of Skeleton Key, commented, "Skeleton Key's recorded music division has a strong focus on urban entertainment. It is critical to our success to have an experienced promo person like Garnet to quarterback those projects."



Gerald Levert

Lives Within Our Hearts

July 13, 1966 — November 10, 2006

Gerald Levert passed unexpectedly at his home on November 10, 2006 at the premature age of 40. And the music industry and his friends and family have been mourning his loss.

Walter Williams, Sr., co-founder with Gerald's father, Eddie Levert, Sr. of the O'Jays, commented, "We watched him grow up and develop into a fine young man, writer, producer and entertainer in this extremely tough world and business."

A member of the R&B trio Levert, with his brother Sean and childhood friend Marc Gordon, Gerald became famous in the '80s with such hits as "Pop, Pop, Pcp, Pop Goes My

Gerald Levert was born with a soulful spoon in his mouth. He learned how to sing and live from one of the greatest ever at both, his dad Eddie Levert. —Donnie Simpson

Mind," "Casanova" and "Baby I'm Ready." In 1955 he recorded with his dad the album *Father & Son*, after which he began performing with his father. As a member of another threesome, LSG (Gerald Levert, Keith Sweat and Johnny Gill), he enjoyed success with such R&B hits as "Your Body." His most recent album was 2005's *Voices* on Atlantic Records.

At the time of his death, Gerald was working on new projects. He had just completed a trip to South Africa with his father, performing three sold-out concerts and spending time with the Mandela family. He recently completed a new album and was gearing up for its release in February 2007. He had also just completed his first book, co-written with his father and author Lyah LeFlore, called "I Got Your Back," an autobiographical account of his relationship with his father Eddie, their failures, concerns, fears, and triumphs. It's said to carry a powerful message of reconciliation for broken families, exploring themes of fatherhood, male bonding and male-female relationships.

Gerald is survived by his mother Martha Levert, his father Eddie Levert, Sr., seven siblings, four children and his extended family and dedicated fans.

"Gerald Levert ...the world won't be the same without his spirit, his soul, his voice. I know God is pleased to have him in heaven. A new soloist for a choir of angels."—Jamie Foxx

"Gerald Levert was a challenging, dynamic, young performer who surely made his Dad and family proud. He has moved on up a little higher now, and he's starring in the heavens now. And we'll understand it better, by and by."—Aretha Franklin

"Gerald was truly one of the great young R&B singers, writers and producers around. But more than that, Big G. was family. He was a guy who was always ready to perform and he never disappointed. What a lot of people didn't realize is that he was constantly working. And he worked with dozens of artists — Barry White, Teena Marie, Chante Moore and so many more ..."—Tom Joyner

"Gerald was a friend and a powerful musical force. His vocals were unmatched...writing superb...producing, cutting edge. I would always joke around with him and tell him that I should have sung "Casanova" (smile)."—Howard Hewitt

"I LOVED Gerald as much as I love my daughter. I have known him since he was 16. He's the reason why I got to audition for The O'Jays. He's my lil' brother; he was ALWAYS there for me... ALWAYS! I'm gonna miss him EVERY DAY of my life."—Eric Nolan Grant, O'Jays member:

"Gerald is more than a cousin, he's always been like a brother to me. We have been through the fire together for so many years, both personally and professionally. Losing Gerald leaves a huge hole in my soul that will not be easily repaired. I loved him madly."—Andy Gibson, O'Jays co-manager:

The O'Jays management, O'Jays Gigs Inc., and the O'Jays band and crew extended, "Already missing you."

And his father, Eddie, added, "I love my son....there is nothing more to say."

The Levert Family asked that any donations be made to the R&B Foundation and forwarded to Andy Gibson, Trevel Productions, Inc, 13816 Cedar Road, University Heights, OH 44113

Gerald was an A-student in the business of music, a respected soul man who would sit amongst the older cats and listen to the stories and take the lessons and make decisions that were wise beyond his years. We loved Gerald and he loved us. He would visit, study and pay homage to the elders, and as his star rose he made us all proud because he never shied away from what he was, a soul man. So as we pay our respects to this young man with the old soul, we will remember Gerald not only as an extension of the greatness established by his father and The O'Jays, but as a man who made himself an important link in what we like to call the 'family business' — Rhythm and Blues. —Ben E. King & The Deells

Gerald Levert was the essence of soul music. His showmanship, authentic vocal style and delivery set the standard for all R&B crooners.

—Freddie Jackson

Celebration Of Life
Tribute To
Gerald Levert

Photos and text by Calvin Terrell

In the wee small hours of the morning in November, thousands of fans braved chilly winds and rain to gather outside the Cleveland Convention Center in Ohio for a public memorial for Gerald Levert. As friends, family and fans gathered to pay tribute to the soulful singer, organizers distributed commemorative programs and purple buttons to the crowd. Billed as "A Celebration of Life," the tribute included musical performances by Stevie Wonder, Johnny Gill, Keith Sweat, Angela Winbush, Men At Large, The Rude Boys and Levert's father, D'Jays singer Eddie Levert and son Sean. Gospel singer Yolanda Adams and R&B vocalist Kelly Price added a musical touch to their heartfelt testimonials as well. As she sang her hit "Your Smile," Winbush held back tears and finally tore her false eyelashes from her eyes, beginning the spirited musical tributes. When Levert's band began playing the 1987 hit "Casanova," his LSG group members Gill and Sweat took the teddy bear scattered stage and were soon joined by Sean and Eddie Levert.

Judge Greg Mathis delivered the eulogy, telling the crowd "I'm not a preacher, but God is not through with me yet...I can hear the Lord now saying, 'Gerald...I know you've been singing and performing throughout the world, spreading your love, but I need you to sing for me!'" Mathis then looked at Levert's father Eddie, telling him "I'm sure right now he's climbing that stairway to heaven on his way to the family reunion of the greatest vocalists..."

During the tribute, hosted by Lynn Tolliver, Levert's three children also remembered their father. "If my dad could've, he would've taken care of the entire world," said son Lemicah, 17. "That's the kinda guy he was." The crowd was visibly moved by remarks from Levert's daughters Carlaysia, 16, and Camryn, 8. Usher, Kym Whitley, Stephanie Mills, Jernaine Dupri, Tyler Perry, Marc Gordon, Christopher Williams, Bobby Brown, Mike Tyson, Sylvia Rhone, Dyana Williams, Jamie Foster Brown, Ed Gordon, Brian McKnight,



Eddie Levert and Stevie Wonder pay musical tribute.

Eddie & mom Martha Levert mourn their loss

Kym Whitley and Yolanda Adams attend the memorial.



Gerald's daughters



Marc Gordon sports purple pins in memory of Gerald at the ceremony.



Johnny Gill and Christopher Williams join Sean Levert and Keith Sweat at the pressroom podium

Omarosa, Kandi Burruss (Xscape), Miki Howard, Clifton Powell, Elroy Smith, Eric Nolan-Grant, Walter Williams, Barry Sigler, Melvin Williams, Kevin Liles, Hiram Hicks, Sharon Heyward, Karen Lee, and Sheila Eldridge were among the other notable guests and tribute participants as well as various citation-carrying political representatives, including Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson, U.S. Rep Stephanie Tubbs Jones, Cuyahoga County Commissioner Peter Lawson and Councilman Zack Reed. A portion of east 25th Street at St. Clair Avenue in the city of Cleveland was designated as "Gerald Levert" Lane.

Ronnie Johnson, Sr. VP Atlantic Records, Gerald's recording label, said it would be releasing product in February on Gerald.

Levert's mother Martha thanked everyone for showing love and remembering her firstborn son. During the tribute finale Eddie, joined by son Sean began a rendition of "Dance With My Father." But Eddie became overwhelmed and was unable to finish the poignant song. Instead, he waked off the stage, saying "I love y'all. I'll see y'all later. I can't..."



Miki Howard and producer son Brandon

Kandi of Xscape celebrates Gerald's life at the memorial



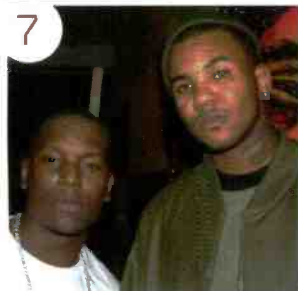
Fans line the street waiting to pay their respects.

BIG SHOTS

Living Legends Foundation Honors

Photos by Rowena Husband

The Living Legends Foundation along with celebs and execs from the industry came together in New York City to celebrate this year's heroes: Antonio "L.A." Reid, Chairman, Island/Def Jam Music Group; Stephen Hill, Executive Vice President, Black Entertainment Television (BET); and Skip Cheatham, Programming Director for KKDA in Dallas and TV and syndicated radio host. The salute dinner raised funds for support of music and radio industry execs in financial need. Among the \$25,000 donors were Charles Goldstruck for J Records, Cathy Hughes for Radio One and Doug Morris for Universal Records.



① Ken Wilson poses with honorees Stephen Hill of BET, Skip Cheatham of KKDA and Antonio "L.A." Reid of Island/Def Jam ② (l-r) IAAAM founder Dyana Williams; Living Legends chairman A.D. Washington, BRE founder Sidney Miller who is a Board Member of The Living Legends Foundation; Radio One founder Cathy Hughes; President of The Living Legends Foundation Miller London ③ (l-r) Mr. and Mrs. Ray Harris (Ray is an original founder of The Living Legends Foundation), Mr. and Mrs. David Linton (David is VP of The Living Legends Foundation) ④ (l-r) CEO of Inner City Broadcasting Charles Warfield, PD of WBLS-FM in NYC Vinny Brown, and President of Be Somebody Promotions Eddie Sims ⑤ (l-r) J Records President Charles Goldstruck, Rev. Al Sharpton, J Records Senior VP of Urban Promotions Ken Wilson ⑥ J/RCA Records R&B artists Fantasia and Monica ⑦ Tyrese aka Black Ty, who performed for the gala, and The Game ⑧ Natalie and Ken Wilson ⑨ J Records Nicole Sellers and recording artist Monica ⑩ Honoree Antonio "L.A." Reid and Jay-Z

fat joe

the game

r. kelly

lil' kim

fatman scoop

pharrell williams

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BIG SHOTS

Diversity Awards

Photos by Willie Tassain (323) 232-6391

The 14th Annual Diversity Awards were taped at the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles November 19th for a later fall television airing. Among this year's honorees were Paula Patton for Female Nova Award for her work in "Idelwild" and "Déjà vu." Nick Cannon received the Creative Maverick Award. He is featured in the current film "Bobby."

① Creative Maverick Award winner Nick Cannon with his father James Cannon ② Nova Award winner Paula Patton and her husband Robin Thicke ③ Sharon Leal of the Dreamlettes in the film "Dreamgirls" ④ Mario Van Peebles with his wife Chitra ⑤ Shemar Moore of TV's "Criminal Minds" which won an award and Vivica A. Fox



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BIG SHOTS

BET Hip-Hop Awards ATL ALL THE WAY!

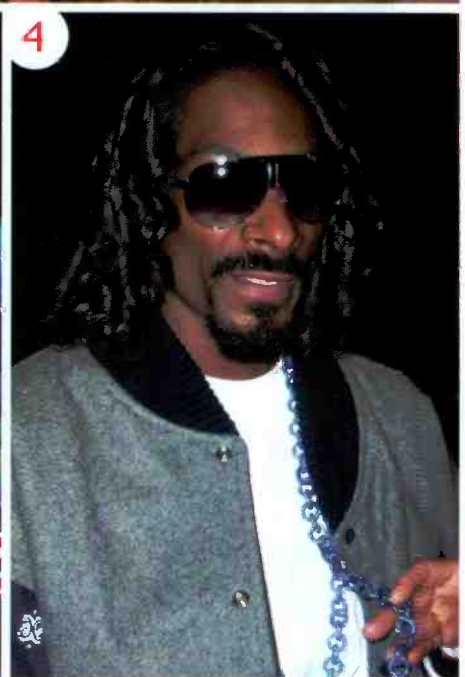
Photos and text by Calvin Te-rell

A bevy of rappers and hip-hop industry reps participated in the 2006 BET Hip-Hop Awards at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta. Billed as "history in the making," the event marked Black Entertainment Television's inaugural presentation of an awards show dedicated specifically to those in the hip-hop music genre. *The Pimp Chronicles* comedian Katt Williams hosted the event. Atlanta's hip-hop scene was definitely representing the dirty south in its hometown. The show, which aired on November 15, opened with a special rendition of "Welcome to Atlanta" featuring Jermaine Dupri, Young Jeezy, Ludacris and Lil' Jon. There were performances by Snoop Dogg, Ludacris, Young Jeezy, T.I., The Game and Lil' Wayne among others. Jay-Z, P. Diddy and Nelly were in attendance. Hip-hop pioneer DJ Grandmaster Flash was this year's "I Am Hip-Hop" Icon Award recipient.



"We are extremely excited to be producing our first BET Hip-Hop Awards and look forward to a show that reflects the genre with respect, acknowledgement and show production value it deserves," said Stephen Hill, Executive Vice President of Entertainment, Music Programming and Talent for BET Networks. "This show is very much about where hip-hop culture is right now, but we will honor the original four elements of hip-hop and show their connection to today's beats, rhymes and life."

T.I. was the big winner taking home four awards and receiving eight nominations, the most of any nominee. "You can't hate on hard work and talent," said T.I. His nominations included "Hip-Hop Video of the Year;" "Hip-Hop Track of the Year" for "What You Know;" "Hip-Hop CD of the Year" for *KING*; "Best Collaboration" for his duet with Young Dro on "Shoulder Lean;" as well as "Hip-Hop MVP," "Lyricist of the Year," "Best Live Performance," and the "Hip-Hop Hustler Award." T.I.'s film "ATL" even took home the award for "Best Hip-Hop Movie."



Newcomer Chamillionaire made his presence known when he scooped up two awards. If anyone was snubbed, it was probably Kanye West who experienced huge success with his album *Late Registration*, but received only one nomination and took home nothing.

As a show with an entirely new format, BET took a stab at creating some award categories never seen before in a music awards show such as "Hip-Hop Hustler" and "Hip-Hop MVP." Hours prior to the Awards taping, BET correspondent Toure', "America's Next Top Model" Tocarra Jones, and Danella of BET News, hosted an elaborate "Black Carpet Pre-Show" outside the Fox Theatre.

5



BET HIP-HOP AWARDS

www.bet.com

And the WINNERS are...

HIP-HOP VIDEO OF THE YEAR
T.I. - "What You Know"

**ELEMENT AWARD:
PRODUCER OF THE YEAR**
Jemaine Dupri

HIP-HOP HUSTLER AWARD
Jay-Z

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR
Chamillioraire

**ALTEL WIRELESS
PEOPLE'S CHAMP AWARD**
Chamillioraire
featuring Krayzie Bone
"Pidin"

BEST LIVE PERFORMER
Busta Rhymes

**ELEMENT AWARD:
LYRICIST OF THE YEAR**
Common

HIP-HOP MVP OF THE YEAR
T.I.

"I AM HIP-HOP" ICON AWARD
Grandmaster Flash

HIP-HOP TRACK OF THE YEAR
Young Jeezy
"It's Goin' Down"

**ELEMENT AWARD:
BEST HIP-HOP DANCE**
Srap

BEST HIP-HOP MOVIE
ATL

HIP-HOP CD OF THE YEAR
T.I. "King"

**ELEMENT AWARD:
VIDEO DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR**
Hype Williams

**BET MCBILE
HOT RINGTONE AWARD**
Young Dro feat. T.I.
"Shoulder Lean"

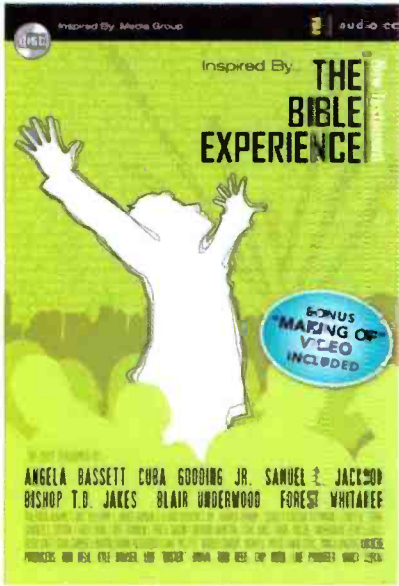
BEST UK HIP-HOP ACT
Sway

① BET Sr. VP Corporate Communications Michael Lewellen ② Busta Rhymes and KKDA-FM PD Skip Chesham ③ Lil Jon ④ Snoop Dogg ⑤ BET co-presidents Toure and Darzella talk with rapper Nelly ⑥ Jamie Foster Brown and Wendy Williams broadcast from the awards for the nationally syndicated "Wendy Williams Show" ⑦ Tiny (Escape) and T.I. ⑧ Slim Thug

Inspired By...

The Bible Experience

Photos by Willie Tassain 323-232-639



The Inspired By Media Group recently assembled an all-star cast of more than 300 including such award-winning talent as Denzel Washington, Angela Bassett and Cuba Gooding, Jr., to create "Inspired By...The Bible Experience," a fully dramatized audio recording of the Bible. Based on the entire text of the TNIV New Testament, this first-of-its-kind audio Bible includes dramatic performances set to life-like sound effects and an original musical underscore. Zondervan, the largest Christian communications company and leading publisher of Bibles, published and distributed the project that was executive produced by new media producer Ron Belk, TV/film producer Kyle Bowser, Grammy-winning music producer Louis "Buster" Brown and Emmy-winning casting director Robi Reed. "It was really a labor of love by everyone involved," explained Reed, who added, "We paid them the equivalent of dinner for four at Mr. Chow's." Angela Bassett, who took on the role of Esther, was just one of the many who sprang at the chance to mingle her creativity with her spirituality. "I was waiting for the opportunity," she exclaimed. The project was premiered recently at the West Angeles Church (COGIC) in Los Angeles. For more information, go to InspiredBy.com



① Executive producers Kyle Bowser and Robi Reed ② Bishop Ulmer and wife Togetta ③ Blair Underwood and Kirk Franklin
 ④ Flex Alexander and Shanice Wilson ⑤ Erica from Mary Mary and her daughter Krista ⑥ Actress Vanessa Calloway
 ⑦ Taraji Henson and Common ⑧ (l-r) Courtney B. Vance, Angela Bassett, Star Jones Reynolds





*Kids Rap
Radio*



Beyonce



*The
Pastor Rudy
Experience*



J. Xavier



Kelly Rowland



Dreamgirls



2 Much



Trin-i-tee 5:7



Solange



*Sunshine
Anderson*



Mio Little



Michelle Williams



Mo'Nique



Nave



Seasons Greetings

From our Family to Yours



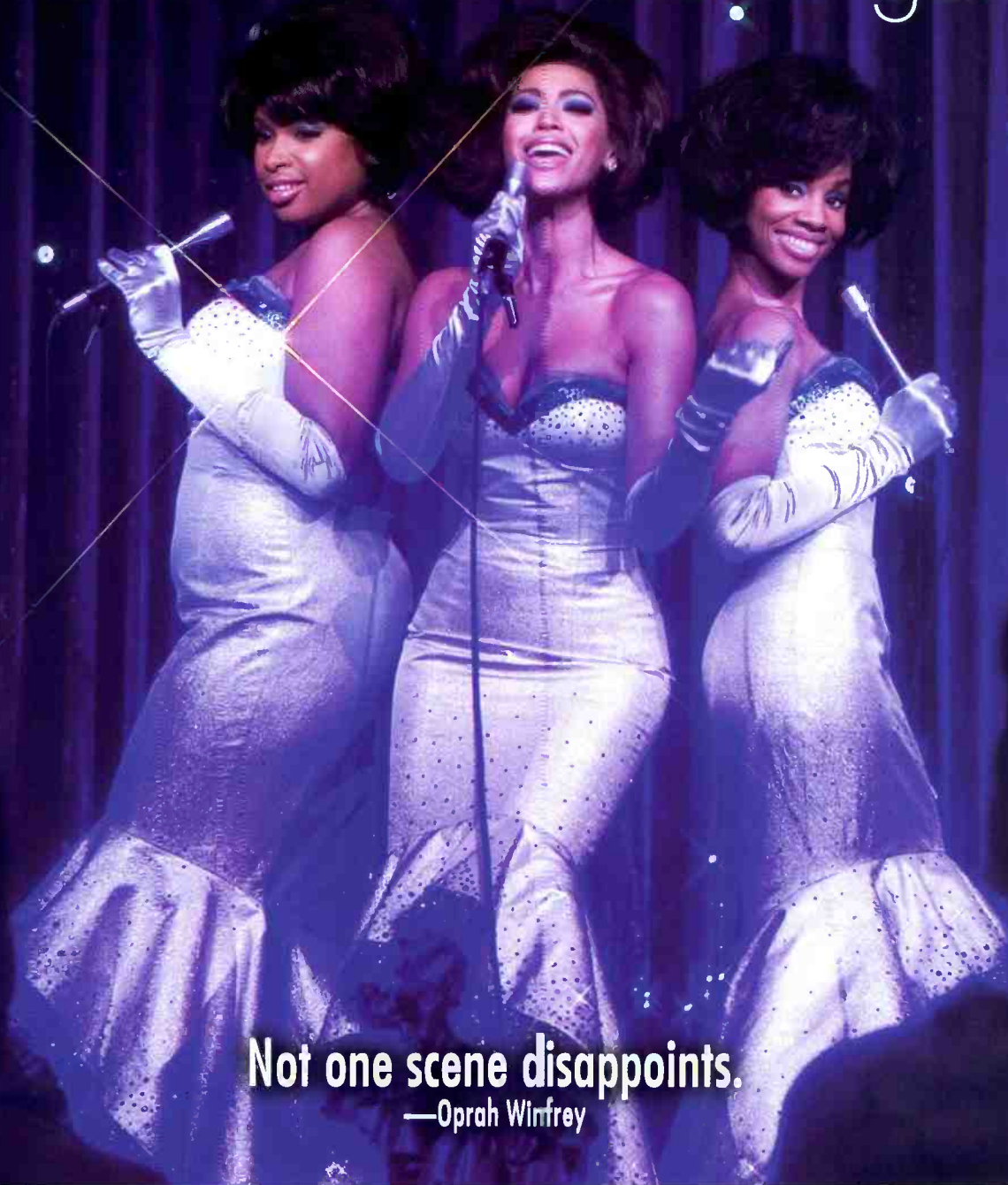
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DREAM

Music World Does It Again...



Not one scene disappoints.
—Oprah Winfrey

GIRLS

And Again And Again

“Dreamgirls” is the story of dreams coming true

and more: it's the story of *making* dreams come true. The film, loosely based on the story of the emergence of Motown Records and Diana Ross and the Supremes, reveals the hard work, the sacrifices, the training, the obstacles, the compromises, the commitment, the passion and, yes, the luck, that it takes to realize your dreams. The road to stardom is much more than the glitter and glamour.

Ask Mathew Knowles, modern-day CEO/manager of the 21st century's superstar trio Destiny's Child and of its worldwide solo superstar Beyoncé whose label Music World Music releases the soundtrack for “Dreamgirls” on December 5. “The road was a lot of work and sacrifice,” he explains.

When he understood his daughter's dream, he set out to make it come true, instilling in his then nine-year old little girl the commitment and work ethic it would take to reach that pinnacle. “We went out and found vocal coaches, choreographers and all the resources needed to develop her raw talent into the marketable brand it is today.”

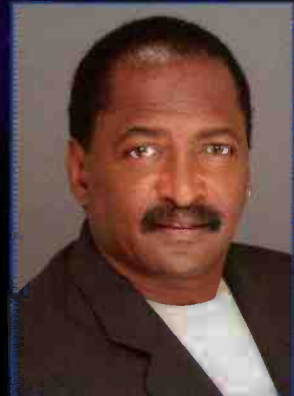
Beyoncé's products, name and image sell millions. She recently launched with her mother Tina Knowles the fashion line House of Dereon and Juniors Line Dereon and is currently a spokesperson for L'Oréal. With multi-platinum sales exceeding 100 million worldwide, Beyoncé is a revered name around the world. Today at 25 she stars in the Paramount/Dreamworks adaptation of the musical “Dreamgirls” with aplomb worthy of Oscar consideration, an award she wants along with a Tony to add to her collection of nine Grammys.



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Mathew Knowles

Beyoncé



Beyoncé was not yet three months old when the original play premiered on Broadway on December 22, 1981. By the time Beyoncé first performed "My Funny Valentine" in a Houston club at age nine, Diana Ross and the Supremes had eclipsed. Similar to Beyoncé, Diana had gone solo from her group and amassed a global fame and then portrayed Billie Holiday in the Oscar-winning film "Lady Sings the Blues." But Diana

Destiny's Child



wasn't on Beyoncé's radar growing up. Playing Deanna in "Dreamgirls," the role based on Diana Ross, Beyoncé clearly had some studying to do. She said she watched "Lady Sings the Blues" more than 15 times and "Mahogany," another Ross film, in order to perfect Diana's mannerisms.

But in a way, she'd been training for the part her whole life, she says. Her life story at her now 25 years has been about making one's dreams come true, first as part of Destiny's Child and now as a solo artist, who, with five films in her repertoire—"Carmen: Hip Hopera," "Fighting Temptations," "Goldfinger," "Pink Panther" and "Dreamgirls"—says she feels like she came of age in "Dreamgirls" and really learned to act. "I'm an actress now," she proudly, yet humbly stated to Oprah Winfrey on her special on the "Dreamgirls." Seated with her co-stars Eddie Murphy and Jamie Foxx and Jennifer Hudson, all Oprah could exclaim was how 'sensational' "Dreamgirls" was. "Not one scene disappoints," she exclaimed.

Mathew Knowles has patterned his daughter's meteoric rise somewhat on the Motown template imitated and chronicled in "Dreamgirls." Just five years ago, BRE Magazine saluted Mathew Knowles as its 2001 Man of the Year. Destiny's Child was breaking out; they had just released *Survivor* and there were rumors that Beyoncé and the other girls, Michelle Williams and Kelly Rowland, would break solo, but it hadn't happened yet. Mathew put his training in brand marketing from Xerox to work in the music game. He had diligently engineered a template for the Music World brand, and launched the label to house the assets he was developing to propel the three girls into superstardom first as a group and then individually.

The Music World Entertainment (MWE) umbrella, through which the "Dreamgirls" soundtrack emanates, houses a world of structures to not only support the development of his lead talent, but to also expand the brand's horizons. From management and record labels to artist development and boot camp to promotion, investment and merchandising, Music World Entertainment has emerged as a significant force in the industry.

Music World And The Soundtrack Niche

"Dreamgirls" is not Music World's first foray into music soundtracks. This is in fact its fifth involvement. "Carmen Hip Hopera" was Beyoncé's first starring role. She followed with the lead role in "The Fighting Temptations," a film and soundtrack that opened the floodgates for other gospel-tinged projects that immediately followed when the film industry realized there were unbound dollars in this niche market. Mathew also took the soundtrack to the top of the charts in both Gospel and AC. The soundtrack featured many of his acts including the O'Jays, Solange, Michelle and Ramiyah,

among others. He confronted *Bilboard* with the question of how it defined a Gospel record, getting them to expand their parameters for this project, and then proceeded to deliver a #1 Gospel and R&B hit.

Always open to ways to expand the brand, Music World looked at film and soundtracks as added exposure for its expanding artist roster as well. Music World's pop group Play was introduced on "Master of Disguise," and in 2005 MWE invaded the teen market with the two-drumbs-up skating film "Roll Bounce" whose soundtrack included Beyoncé's Grammy-nominated "Wishing On A Star" and Michelle Williams "Let's Stay Together" along with two of his label signees to his own deal with Sanctuary, Earth Wind and Fire and Jay J.

The music soundtrack has in fact been one of MWE's viable marketing arms. When Beyoncé was the first artist requested to star in "Dreamgirls," Warner Brothers had the soundtrack. "Noticing the opportunity, MWE leveraged Beyoncé to make sure SonyBMG would handle the soundtrack," says Mathew. The Underdogs-produced "Listen" that Beyoncé performs from the soundtrack was also added to her sophomore solo LP *B-Day*, that impacted in September, thereby setting up some pre-promotion for the film and the soundtrack's release in December. Through a strategic deal with Wal-Mart, a Beyoncé *B-Day* special album 2-pack was offered exclusively, resulting in Beyoncé's record sales jumping 159% over her last week's sales. Just another example of the marketing genius behind MWE.

The Record Label-Music World Music (MWM)

Since Mathew bought back Music World from Sanctuary after a short-lived relationship, Music World Music has buldozed forward sporting a rigorous schedule of some 14 record releases within the next eight months. Through a variety of joint ventures and various distribution deals, MWM has parlayed its roster with a spread that would be the envy of top Vegas gamblers. All its odds are covered. The label's prime artists of Beyoncé, Kelly Rowland, Michelle Williams and Destiny's Child are part of the standing imprint deal with Sony/BMG. New artists being shepherded through the doors include teen hip-hop prodigy J Xavier, new actup 2 Much recently signed



Mo.03



from Omarion and Chris Stokes' camp, San Antonio duo Mo'oe artist Solange, Next and Sunshir Anderson who will be distributed through Fontana/Universal.

Kid Rap Radio is another new endeavor that is a Music World staff concept, Mathew explains that re-records top rap songs with revised lyrics making them parent and teacher-friendly and palatable for kids from two to ten.



Sunshir Anderson

Music World's Gospel Label: Spirit Rising

Then there's Music World's blossoming gospel division, Spirit Rising Music. Already at retail is *Spirit Rising, Volume 1 & 2*, compilations featuring a who's who of gospel, inspirational and mainstream artists



Directed By The Book: Touch



including Bishop TD Jakes, Michelle Williams, Mahalia Jackson, Marvin Winans, Mary Mary, Mighty Clouds of Joy, Kelly Price, Israel & New Breed, Ramiyah, Men of Standard and Ron Summers and Nikki Ross from the Pastor Rudy Experience with a bonus DVD that's available at Wal-Mart. The label's plan is for the *Spirit Rising* series to continue with a *Spirit Rising III* follow-up and a double CD from Michelle Williams, her follow-up to her solo debut *Heart To Yours*. Long-awaited projects



Solange



Artist: I see the star in your eyes every time you hear hip-hop. Because I give you to make it a chance for you to have the opportunity to enjoy rap music in a fun and loving way. I wanted you to all enjoy the beats that glow that shine on your face and words that encourage you. So proud to be your grandfather. Love, Digger "G" Mathers: Kwanza





The family: Solange, Mathew, Beyoncé, Tina, Kelly and Michelle

from Ramiyah and Trin-i-tee 5:7 on Spirit Rising/Zomba are already slated for first quarter of 2007. Then there's the Pastor Rudy Experience...

Pastor Rudy Rasmus, the Knowles' longtime minister at St. John's United Methodist Church in Houston, is as dynamic and prolific as the Knowles family. MWM has opened the doors to his dynamic ministry with the release of *The Pastor Rudy Experience, Volume 1*, the musical expression of various talents including Brian C. Wilson, Ron Summers, Nikki Ross and *Sculfruit*. Secondly, there is the book, "Touch: The Power of Touch in Transforming Lives," the autobiographical story of Rasmus' life interlaced with Biblical truths and ministry principles practiced by Rasmus and his 15,000-member strong congregation. Thirdly, is his ministry through the "Bread of Life," which distributes 15,000 pounds of fresh food every week, serving 6,000 meals per month to the homeless and needy in Houston. Rasmus' mission to promote self-determination, self-empowerment and self-sufficiency is further enhanced by other outreach services that include providing housing assistance, life skills/social services, temporary shelter, drug rehabilitation, acute health and mental health care. There is a reason it's called an 'experience.'

Music World Music's Catalog

As with any savvy music enterprise, there is always an eye towards growth action in the present but a gold mine in the past. MWM, even though less than a decade in operation, has already amassed a wealth in its catalog division. Called its Master Series, it includes such legends as Chaka Khan and The O'Jays, the *Roll House Soundtrack*, Papa Reu, Play, Blaque, Dionne Farris and Solange, among others. And the company is steadily adding to those archives with an eye on developing career artists.



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Music World Management

The other main concentration of the company is Music World Management. According to Mathew, when you do both a label and management, you get better results. "You see the bigger picture and have a better focus. After all," he says, "shouldn't it be what's best for the artist?" In addition to its core talent—Mathew's family—daughters Beyoncé and Solange and DC members Kelly and Michelle whom he looks at as family—Music World also manages Trin-i-tee 5:7, Mic Little (Def Jam artist), a bastion of producers and songwriters that include the Bama Boys, Cameron Wallace, Maurice Joshua and Solange as well as Troy Taylor, also one of its

many artists. A&R Executive, Max Gousse, along with in-house producers, The Bama Boys, keep the studios hopping at the site in Houston where Music World started. General Manager, Johnne Lister, oversees the MWE brand and team of 37 that have expanded so that Music World now has additional offices in Los Angeles, New York City and now internationally with the opening of MWE Europe in London, headed by 12-year music industry veteran, Daren Dixon.

Music World's Television Partnerships

Leveraging assets is one key to Mathew's business acumen that spans some 20 years in corporate America. And even though he says the company's priority focus today is management and the record label, there is always something jumping off that the flexibility of his structure allows him to entertain. He was leaving for London within the hour to address just such a new joint venture with MWE, SonyBMG and Channel 4: the launch of the reality television show "Chancer" that was debuting in the U.K. that weekend. The idea arose from the in-house artist development that had been underway at his Houston offices. Patterned after a boot camp, the show brought in eight talented artists from the UK and followed them through the Music World artist development process. Each episode ended with a face-off between a 'Chancer' and an MWE artist. John Legend, Kelly Rowland, Omarion, Amerie, Lyfe Jennings and others held Master classes every week for the 'Chancers,' while Solange led classes in songwriting, Frank Gadsen worked with choreography and other experts led a host of other disciplines that are all part of the building blocks of an artist's career. There's already interest for expanding the show to all of Europe and Mathew's brokering a joint venture deal between Sony/BMG UK and Music World to release artists through those channels as well.

The Global Approach

"Music World has a huge name outside the United States," explains Mathew, who credits his corporate training ground for exposing him to the multi-national reach. "There are much bigger opportunities," he exclaims, "when one takes a worldwide approach." The numbers certainly testify to the prominence that Beyoncé, Kelly, Michelle and Destiny's Child have established around the globe. Destiny's Child has amassed more than 100 million while Beyoncé is riding more than 20 million in worldwide sales. "Kelly," Mathew says, "sold 750,000 in America, but 1.3 million outside America with 400,000 of those in the UK." No wonder he says his efforts have been 100% international since day one.

He's got Kelly in China for five dates, which he says is a whole new frontier. Beyoncé just played Nigeria where she sang the country's national anthem, which he described as a very touching experience for them all. He's exploring her touring in South America and has already invested in several Latin artists to launch the Music World Latino Division. Among them is Mireidy, Miss Puerto Rico, who's also a spokesperson for Pantene.

Maximizing the Brand

Maximizing your opportunities is another Mathew tenet, and the Urbane Marketing arm of Music World Entertainment is vitally conjoined to all Music World projects as well as its own growing base of global merchandising. Partnered with BravaCo, one of the top four international merchandisers, Urbane has supported tours for Jay-Z, Destiny's Child, Nelly, Beyoncé, R. Kelly and Chris Brown. Plans are currently in the works for the 2007 Beyoncé tour.

Being at the forefront of the digital landscape with the Music World brands Mathew sees as another major opportunity. A philanthropist and frequent speaker at music conferences and schools, Mathew was espousing the digital highway long before its current saturation as a way to connect the world. Partnered with All Access in Austin, Texas, MWE is at the forefront of digital downloads, ringtones, POV, fan club sites and brand expansion.

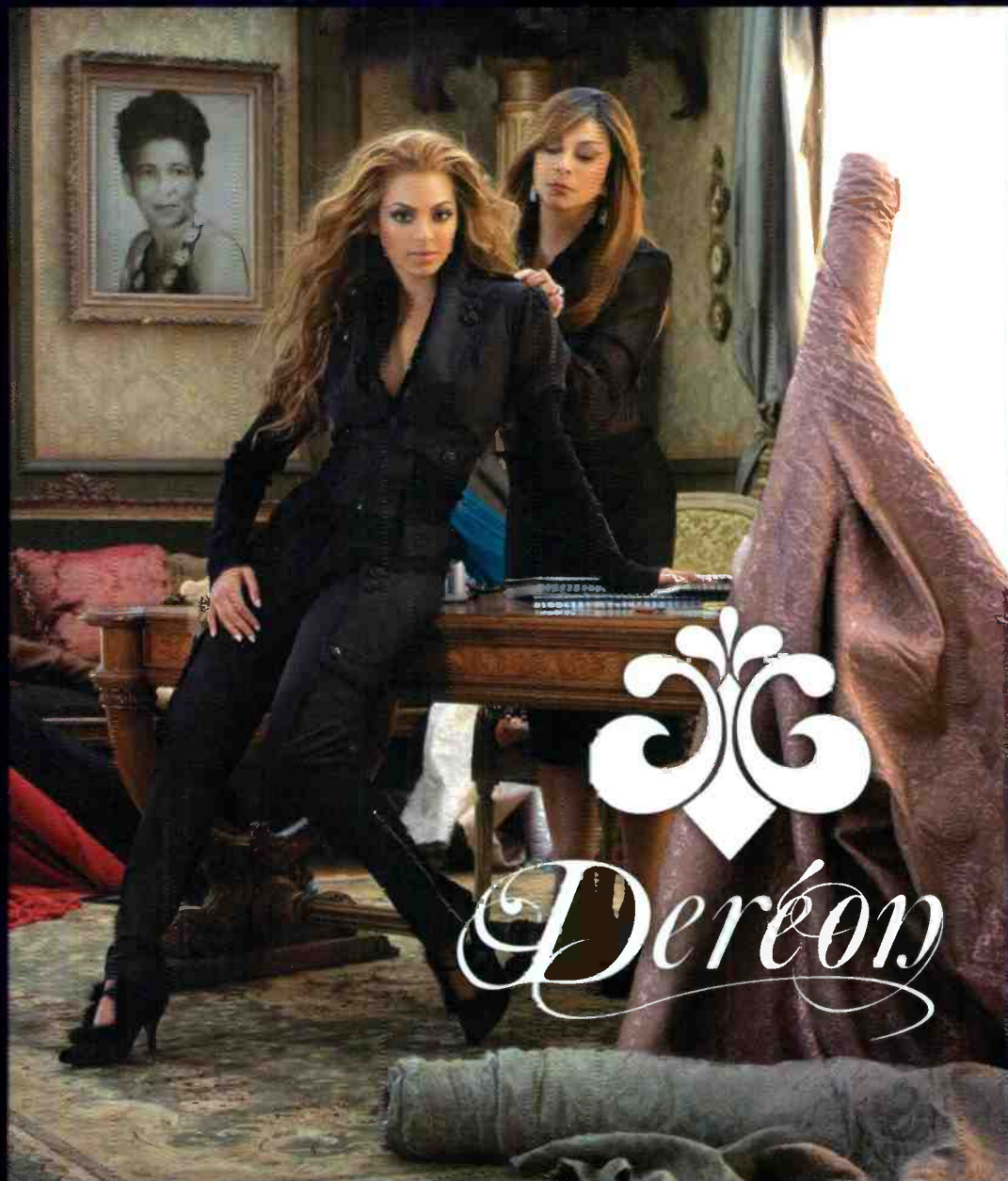
Mathew and Beyoncé's MW Properties

Mathew and Beyoncé have also formed Music World Properties, a real estate development company based in Houston. Included

in its portfolio in addition to real estate acquisitions will be development of condominiums and office buildings. The House of Dereon Media Center (HOD) in Houston is one of these developments. HOD is a beautiful entertainment venue with a sound stage, video and audio recording capabilities, accompanied by a state of the art studio on the premises. The venue is utilized for concerts, artist showcases, recordings and special events for MWE artists and the general public.

"I don't want to get over-exposed," Mathew cautions. "There's a lot going on now and we are trying to maximize our opportunities, but I learned a long time ago when Tina and I had the hair salon business, if you get too big too fast, you can lose your focus." ("I do wish I had franchised that salon," he later adds, commenting on the salons that popped up in the area based on their model.) Developing Music World for the past ten years, Mathew says he's reminded of Daryl Simmons slogan for his Silent Partners Company—"quietly making noise." "That's been us," he says. "We've been moving quietly, but we're making some big sounds."

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André "3000" Launches Cartoon Series Stars in Political Action Drama



André "3000" poses with Cartoon Network bus at his cartoon's premier event.

Outkast's André "3000" Benjamin premiered his new animated series, "Class of 3000," on Cartoon Network recently. The TV show is co-created and co-executive produced by André "3000," who also provides the voice of the series' main character, Sunny Bridges. The 30-minute animated comedy is set in Benjamin's



(l-r) Cartoon Network General Manager/Executive Vice President Jim Samples, André co-executive producer and co-creator of "Class of 3000" and Tom Lynch.

hometown of Atlanta and centers on a music superstar star walked away from his successful musical career to return to his roots at his old school, Westley School for the Performing Arts, where he now teaches music. Andre also provides the music for the series.

André "3000" is also starring in the upcoming film, "The Battle of Seattle," alongside Oscar winner Charlize Theron, Martin Henderson, Woody Harrelson, and Ray Liotta. The film is directed by Theron's long time boyfriend, Stuart Townsend. The political action drama takes place during the infamous 1999 World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle. Similar to the film "Crash," various storylines will weave together to recount the WTO meeting and ensuing riots from various perspectives, such as those of protesters, pedestrians, politicians, police and WTO delegates. The film began shooting in and around Vancouver, British Columbia and Seattle. It's scheduled for a 2008 release.

Big Boi's Mix of Music With Golf: Seriously Funny

Benjamin's Outkast counterpart, Big Boi, who is currently featured on the lead single "Hood Boy" from Fantasia, is currently shooting the comedy "Who's Your Caddy" with Cedric the Entertainer, Faizon Love, Andy Milonakis and Finesse Mitchell.

Reported on MTV, Big Boi said, "It's about a music mogul who tries to play golf in this exclusive golf community. I go inside this country club and buy this huge house, and the 17th hole just happens to be on my property, so they got to let me in. There are a lot of antics with them trying to get me [kicked] out and things like that. It's seriously funny."

Wesley Snipes' Tax Troubles Under Control?

Wesley Snipes has negotiated with the government and has reportedly agreed to an installment payment plan to avoid jail time for an alleged \$13 million owed in taxes. Snipes was a federal fugitive, charged with tax fraud and conspiracy, according to the U.S. Attorney in Central Florida.



Snipes has been out of the country in Namibia filming an independent horror movie, "Gallowalker," for Hannibal Pictures and Double Edge Entertainment. The United States does not have an extradition treaty with Namibia, which made it difficult for law enforcement to return Snipes to the states to face his charges. According to the State Department, Namibia's laws do allow foreign governments to apply to have criminal suspects extradited. Now that an agreement has been reached, however, Snipes can continue to work and travel abroad.

Atlantic Giddy Over 'Happy Feet'

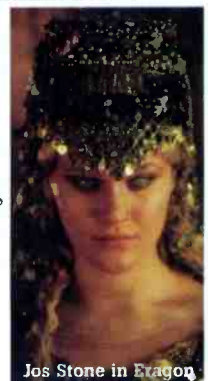
Atlantic Records has the original motion picture soundtrack to the Warner Bros./Village Roadshow comedy adventure "Happy Feet." The album features performances by contemporary recording artists, as well as members of the film's cast. Prince, in fact, has the first single called "The Song of the Heart." Additionally, the soundtrack includes songs originally recorded by The Beatles, Rufus & Chaka



Khan, and Stevie Wonder, plus newly recorded tracks from Pink and the trio of Patti LaBelle, Yolanda Adams, and Fantasia Barrino. The album also features songs made famous by Earth, Wind & Fire; Elvis Presley; Prince; Queen; and Frank Sinatra, as performed by some of the film's stars, including Nicole Kidman, Hugh Jackman, Robin Williams and Brittany Murphy.

Joss Stone Readies New Album Makes Movie Debut

Joss Stone has been in the studio working on her next album, scheduled for release on March 6th. Betty Wright does not join Stone this time around as producer Raphael Saadiq (formerly of Tony, Toni, Tone) takes charge. The LP will feature such tracks as "Headturner," "Nothing Better Than (The iPod Song)" and "I Wish I Never Met You." Meanwhile, the British singer makes her big-screen debut co-starring with Jeremy Irons and John Malkovich in the fantasy film "Eragon," in theaters now.



Aretha and Mary J Underscore 'Bobby' Soundtrack



Underscoring one of the most tragic, life-changing events in American history – the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles in June 1968 – as envisioned by director/screenwriter Emilio Estevez in the film “Bobby,” Island Def Jam released the original motion picture soundtrack album showcasing music by the premiere artists of the 1960s.

The movie from the Weinstein Company and MGM, which opened nationwide over Thanksgiving, features a stellar cast including Harry Belafonte, Anthony Hopkins, Laurence Fishburne, Lindsay Lohan, Demi Moore, Nick Cannon and Sharon Stone in standout performances. The Underdogs, along with co-writer and co-producer Bryan Adams, produce the lead single to the soundtrack album, “Never Gonna Break My Faith,” with Aretha Franklin and Mary J. Blige.

“More than any other time in our history, the most memorable recordings from the 1960s reflected upon and influenced our culture,” said Antonio “L.A.” Reid, Chairman, Island Def Jam Music Group. “Aretha and Mary’s uplifting rendition of ‘Never Gonna Break My Faith,’ along with the historic cast assembled for this soundtrack album – sum up all our hopes and dreams for a better world.”

The *Bobby* soundtrack album opens with “Never Gonna Break My Faith,” followed by cuts from the era like “Tracks Of My Tears” (Smokey Robinson & the Miracles), “Come See About Me” (the Supremes), “Function At The Junction” (Shorty Long), “I Was Made To Love Her” (Stevie Wonder), “Tuesday Afternoon” (Moody Blues), “Black Is Black” (Los Bravos), “Ain’t That Peculiar” (Marvin Gaye), “Baby I Love You” (Aretha Franklin) and “Grazing In The Grass” (Hugh Masekela),

Ice Cube Does It for the Fans

Just months after the release of his new album, *Laugh Now, Cry Later*, Ice Cube is looking to reinvigorate his sales by offering the album as a limited edition, which comes as a CD/DVD combo. The set, re-titled *Laugh Now, Cry Later: O.G. Limited Edition*, features over 60-minutes of never-before seen footage from the veteran rapper’s 21 city tour with WC, The Clipse and Dogg Pound, as well as music videos for “Why We Thugs,” “Go to Church” and “Chrome and Paint.”

Does Crime Pay? BET’s American Gangster Explores

BET’s original series “American Gangsters” debuted to top ratings as the #1 series premiere in fourth quarter BET history, with a 1.6 rating (1.3 million households and 1.6 million total viewers). Executive produced by Nelson George and Frank Sinton (Asylum Entertainment), along with Mark Rowland and BET, the series profiles an infamous crime figure each week through the use of archival footage, photographs and interviews with people familiar with the various cases. Featured experts include ex-members of these polarizing criminals’ organizations, police officials from the time period, attorneys that represented the criminals and crime historians.



(l-r) at the standing-room-only preview screening in Los Angeles Ambassador Sydney Williams, Congresswoman Maxine Waters and BET President of Entertainment, Reggie Hudlin—Photo by Malcolm Ali/Courtesy BET

Narrated by award-winning actor Ving Rhames, the six-part series “explores without glorifying, and investigates without celebrating” six notorious Black gangsters. The premiere show examined Stanley “Tookie” Williams, co-founder of Los Angeles gang the Crips. The Nobel Peace Prize winner, whose ashes were scattered in South Africa, was considered a martyr at his 2005 execution and celebrities like Jamie Foxx, who played him in the television docudrama, plead for clemency from California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

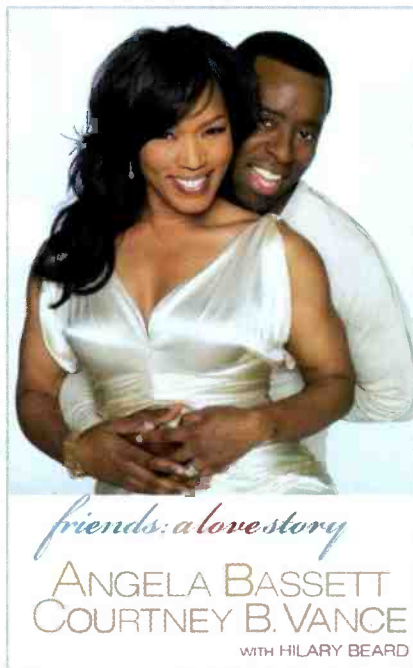
No “Bonnie & Clyde,” the series doesn’t glorify the criminals. “Crime is a cancer that eats away at our communities,” explained Reginald Hudlin, BET President of Entertainment. “But for a generation that grew up thinking greed is good—whether on Wall Street or Martin Luther King Boulevard—they’re not quite so sure whether crime pays or not. We wanted to take an honest look at the criminal life, demystify that world and show what it does to our community.”

The upcoming segments, that air each Tuesday night at 10 p.m. ET/PT with encore episodes airing on Wednesdays and Sundays at 9 p.m. ET/PT, profile “Freeway” Ricky Ross (Dec 5), the first crack king of Los Angeles whose dealings not only impacted the local community, but the international drug trade as well and include a connection to the infamous Reagan-era CIA/Iran-Contras scandal; Queens native Lorenzo “Fat Cat” Nichols, a member of the Seven Crowns gang, involved in drug trafficking and the killing of a NYPD cop, Dec. 12; Mr. Untouchable, Leroy “Nicky” Barnes, Harlem’s first Black heroin kingpin, now in the Witness Protection Program, Dec. 19; Troy and Dino Smith, career San Francisco robbers, Dec 26; The Chambers Brothers, sons of Arkansas sharecroppers who ran a crack enterprise valued at more than \$50 million a year out of Detroit, Jan. 2;

“Judgment will be passed and amoral behavior censured,” states the show’s fact sheet, adding that the Black victims of the criminals will also be heard.

Real Life Love Story of Friends Angela Bassett and Courtney Vance

Book publisher Kimani Press is releasing the non-fiction romance "Friends: A Love Story," a book that chronicles the real-life love story of Hollywood couple Angela Bassett and Courtney B. Vance. Co-written with Hilary Beard, the love story is told from both Angela's and Courtney's separate recollections--from humble beginnings to past relationships and on to busy careers as their paths on the road to stardom cross and ultimately meet to form their loving family. The novel includes personal photos that chronicle their experiences, along with exclusive family photos of their young twins. This memoir offers peek into the celebs' lives, which have previously been private, and offers lessons in love and life.



Ludacris Walks 'Halls of Fame'

Ludacris finalized a development deal with MTV's teen-oriented nighttime network The N to executive-produce and star in the new series, "Halls of Fame." Reminiscent of the '80s hit "Fame," the show follows two girls who attend the Philadelphia High School of Performing Arts; one is a 21-year-old singer and the other a 15-year-old aspiring fashion designer. "Halls of Fame" is a realistic journey into how young people get into the entertainment business. "It's about working hard and being dedicated toward your goals and will hopefully help to empower more kids into believing that they too can realize their dreams," said Ludacris. Luda will have a recurring role on the show, as well as write and perform original music for each episode.

Jay-Z and ESPN's New 'Hit Men'

Jay-Z is teaming with ESPN Original Entertainment to create a scripted boxing series titled "Hit Men." The show will focus on the lives of a multi-cultural group of struggling boxers who work out at the same gym run by former boxer Frank Cerrones. Executive produced by Jay-Z and Def Jam, the pilot episode was written by John Eisendrath ("Beverly Hills, 90210," "Playmakers") and will be shot in Louisiana the first week of December.

Smokey Robinson Soap Opera Hero

Motown legend Smokey Robinson recently guest-starred as himself on NBC's daytime soap opera "Days of our Lives." Robinson's storyline had him rescuing a damsel in distress. Later on the show, he performed "I Love Your Face" from his most recent album *Timeless Love*. Robinson's new album is nostalgic, featuring romantic songs from jazz, big band and traditional pop standards from the '20s, '30s and '40s.

Atlantic Unveils Snoop Song

On Animated Film 'Arthur And The Originals' Atlantic Records has the companion soundtrack album for the upcoming MGM release of "Arthur And The Originals," impacting January 9, 2007 that features a new song by Snoop Dogg titled "Go Girl." The film is set for wide release in the U.S. on January 12, 2007. The first single from the soundtrack will be Jewel's "Quest for Love."

Dallas Austin Scores On Melee Film 'The Trunk'

Melee Entertainment, White LLC, and Bluvoma Inc. are set to co-produce the urban drama "The Trunk," with Academy Award nominee Djimon Hounsou ("Amistad,") Brian White, Boris Kodjoe, and Thomas Krestchmann in starring roles.

The story of an inner city musical prodigy on the verge of stardom was written by Joseph A. Elmore, Jr. and will be directed by Sylvain White. Melee's Scott Aronson and Melina Kevorkian will produce along with stars Kodjoe and Brian White. Dallas Austin and his Rowdy Records imprint will produce the soundtrack and score the film, according to former Priority Records founder Bryan Turner, founder/President of Melee Entertainment. Production is slated to begin later this year in San Francisco.

Chris Rock Files For Divorce Is It Too Late?

Chris Rock has hired a top divorce attorney and initiated divorce proceedings against his wife, Malaak Compton-Rock. The couple wed 10 years ago in November 1996 and they have two daughters, four-year-old Lola and two-year-old Zahra. Malaak is the founder and executive director of StyleWorks, a nonprofit, full-service salon that provides free services for women leaving welfare and entering the workforce. Ironically, Rock is currently in post-production for the film "I Think I Love My Wife," scheduled for release March 16th.

Tevin Campell/Diana DeGarmo Star On Broadway

Diana DeGarmo of "American Idol" fame is back on Broadway, where she has returned in her co-starring role in the popular musical "Hairspray." R&B singer Tevin Campbell, who has been absent from the music scene for some time, joins her as her love interest. Although she placed second to Fantasia on "Idol," DeGarmo has had success on Broadway, and is currently in the studio recording her sophomore CD.



Diana Degarmo and Tevin Campell in costume for the musical "Hairspray"

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I'm here to tell
everyone that
dreams do
come true...

—Fantasia

She's almost like the
girl you grew up with,
someone that you know

—Larry Jackson, Sr. VP A&R, J Records

Feeling and looking beautiful, in a brown mini-dress and stiletto boots, Fantasia, rocked the crowd on Jay Leno. "The Tonight Show" was one of her recent stops to promote the release of her self-titled newly anticipated "urban rock" sophomore album *Fantasia*, impacting December 12 from J/RCA Records. She enthralled the audience with as much ambition and grace as she had when she won the third season of "American Idol." Her first single, "Hood Boy," written by Johna Austin and produced by Tone Mason, features Big Boi and sets a new tone for Fantasia. Currently logging nearly 100,000 plays on her MySpace site www.myspace.com/fantasia and listed as the #5 most added at Urban Mainstream radio, "Hood Boy," is just a taste of what is to come when *Fantasia* hits the streets.

Senior VP A&R, Larry Jackson, who A&R'd the project for J Records, knew "Hood Boy" was a keeper the first time he heard it. "It was a track I found a year ago and I've always loved it. "Hood Boy" to me communicated old-soul hip-hop. It's a Supremes sample, so you feel the Motown vibe and then we added the hip-hop element. It transports you back then, but keeps it cutting-edge."

From her humble beginnings in High Point, North Carolina to the hills of Hollywood, California, Fantasia has come a long way. Her powerful voice won the hearts of many while her life story, enacted a struggle few have been brave enough to tell. It wasn't the tale of the streets of drugs, guns and fights over turf; it was the tale of a girl taking a fast turn into womanhood, dropping out of high school, struggling with illiteracy, becoming a single parent and enduring domestic violence. The Lifetime movie, "The Fantasia Barrino Story: Life Is Not A Fairytale," based on the Simon & Schuster published autobiography, became Lifetime's second most-watched movie in the network's 22-year history with more than 19 million viewers, and it aired again on Thanksgiving night.

Fantasia has walked in many of our shoes but has managed to get a brand new pair with this new album. The air of confidence she displayed in those stiletto boots is of an even more compelling Fantasia.

"She's almost like the girl you grew up with, someone that you know," explains Jackson. "I think people connect with her because she is not another interchangeable singer. She not only has this incomparable voice, but she also has a story that a lot of women can relate to," explains Jackson. "That's why people like songs—because they find something that is universally relatable in that song that they can connect with. Fantasia has that quality to connect and it's irresistible."

Riding high on the waves of success from her 2004 debut multi-Platinum album *Free Yourself*, which sold more than two million copies garnering her more than 20 major music awards nominations, she claimed the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Female Artist. Her debut single, "I Believe," was the Top-Selling R&B/Hip Hop Single of the Year and Top-Selling Single of the Year at the Billboard Music Awards.

Fantasia's earned the respect of her music industry peers.

This American Idol is no karaoke singer; she's the real deal! She joins with Patti LaBelle and Yolanda Adams for a new song on the *Happy Feet* soundtrack. She performed with Elton John at the Kennedy Center. And she got a chance to perform before her biggest musical influence, Aretha Franklin, bringing the house down in the process when she belted out two Aretha standards—"Rock Steady" and "Baby I Love You"—at the recent UNCF Parade of Stars Salute to Aretha that airs on television this January.

Unlike with her debut album, this time Fantasia had more time to plan and contribute to her album creatively. It was her vision to fuse the styles of her idol Aretha Franklin and Tina Turner. "Clive Davis (Chairman, BMG, U.S.A.) really allowed me to have a lot of creative input in making this

record," she explains. "I wanted to take people back in terms of doing real songs, bringing something new to the table, and keeping it 'Fantasia,' making an album you can chill with, groove with...you know, with that old school vibe, yet fresh." As the album evolved, the term "urban rock" seemed to fit her new style and the project has a definite crossover appeal, more universal in its reach.

Many of the songs reflect where she is in her life today. "I've let go of things from the past and I'm having a good time," she says. "I was able to let go of the past with the Lifetime movie and now I'm on a whole different level." Cuts on the album such as "I'm Not That Type" and "Bump What Your Friends Say" came from conversations she had while she was in the studio with Missy Elliott. In fact, Elliott, a strong woman music innovator, co-wrote and co-produced three songs on the album: "Turn This Party Up!" "Two Weeks Notice" and "No Stoppin'."

If there was ever any apprehension about working with an American Idol, Fantasia quickly waylaid all fears. She collaborated with some of the brightest and most talented producers, songwriters and artists

in the industry. Producers Dre & Vidal ("I Nominate U," "Baby Making Hips"); Midi Mafia ("When I See U," "Broke"); Swizz Beatz ("Surround U"); Kwarne ("Not The Way It Is," written by Sean Garrett); Babyface and songwriter Diane Warren ("I Feel Beautiful") are just some of the standouts.

"Truthfully, she (Fantasia) converted a lot of people who had no idea who she was—people who do not follow the American Idol franchise," confirms Larry Jackson. "A lot of people really didn't know who she was at first. But this time around, people were approaching us to work on the project."

A major interactive Yahoo! Music promotion kicks off in December uniting fans with Fantasia in Yahoo!'s premiere video program in which user-generated content is edited and urited with the artist's on "Hood Boy" as Fantasia becomes Yahoo!'s "Get Your Freak On" (Fans only) artist. From her show-stopping tour with Kanye West, Fantasia will kick off her new two-month tour at the Oakland Arena on December 31st with Jamie Foxx.

Fantasia exults, "For me, it's a brand new Fantasia: I'm here to tell everyone that dreams do come true, you can't give up..."

Who said life isn't a fairytale?

Fresh and Feeling Beautiful

By

Tanisha L. Williams

LP Art direction and design: Jane Morledge;
Photography: Randall Slavin; Stylist Laury Smith,
Hair: Neeko; Make-up: Tracy Kennedy



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BIG SHOTS

Radio's Talkin' To...



① Mo'Nique stopped by the WKKV-FM (V100.7) studio before her show in Milwaukee!! (l-r) Mo'Nique and Reggie "Smooth As Butta" Brown, APD/MD/Afternoon Drive ② (l-r) Daisy Davis, Operation Manager Radio-One Philadelphia cluster, Atlantic artist Musiq (formerly known as Musiq Soulchild), and Colby Colb, PD WPHI-FM (100.3 the Beat) Philadelphia ③ (l-r) Joann Gamble, MD of Clear Channel UAC WDAS-FM (105.3) in Philadelphia; WDAS on-air personality Patty Jackson; and Atlantic artist Musiq ④ (l-r) Pretty Ricky members Spectacular and Pleasure with Lamonda Williams of Music Choice, Pretty Ricky members Baby Blue and Slick 'Em ⑤ (l-r) Musiq and Moshay Strickland, MD of Radio One's UAC WRNB-FM (107.9 Adult R&B) in Philadelphia ⑥ (l-r) Atlantic artist Pretty Ricky member Pleasure, Clear Channel's Urban/Hip Hop WWPR-FM (Power 105.1)/NY morning show host Egypt, Pretty Ricky members Spectacular, Baby Blue, Slick 'Em and (kneeling) Donell Rawlings of the WWPR morning show





NORTHEAST

New York • Pennsylvania • Massachusetts • Connecticut • New Jersey • Rhode Island

Reporter: Calvin Terrell

Musiq's New Visions



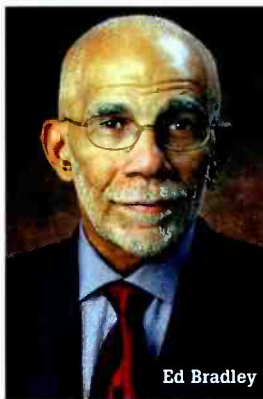
Atlantic Records had its new artist, Philly native Musiq, on the promotional trail recently preparing for fourth album release from the soul artist, his first for Atlantic. (l-r) Poochman, morning show co-host Radio One's WPHI-FM (100.3 the Beat) in Philadelphia); Monie Love, morning show co-host; Atlantic Records artist Musiq Soulchild; and Layiah of the Beat's morning show team.—Photos courtesy of Dwight Willacy

Ed Bradley Mourned by World Started Broadcast Career at WDAS

Veteran broadcaster Ed Bradley, winner of 19 Emmys and four Peabodys who this year marked his 25th year as anchor and reporter for CBS "60 Minutes," was introduced to broadcasting by radio icon Georgie Woods, longtime WDAS-FM air personality. Bradley was teaching sixth grade in his hometown of Philadelphia in the mid '60s when he met Woods, who subsequently introduced him to the inner workings of the station. In 1963, WDAS hired Bradley at \$1.50 per hour, where he stayed until he joined WCBS Radio as a reporter.

"I knew that God put me on this earth to be on the radio," Bradley was quoted as saying years later.

"He covered basketball games, spun records and read the news for the station until one day in the middle 1960s when he heard about the riots in Philadelphia on the radio," says his CBS bio. "He offered to cover the story for WDAS and wound up reporting the event in phone call interviews with community leaders. When he returned to the station, they sent him out with a recorder."



Ed Bradley

Praise Loses Only 'Live' Personality

Black Gospel WPPZ (Praise 103.9) in Philadelphia has lost its last 'live' air personality. Morning air personality Ed Long, an industry veteran, was discharged by the Radio One station in November. Long was previously at the Clear Channel Urban AC WDAS-FM.

Zena Burns New Online PD For Clear Channel New York

Clear Channel has appointed Zena Burns the newly created role of Online PD for its New York six station cluster: Top 40/Mainstream WHTZ (Z100), AC WLTW (LITE 106.7), Top 40/Rhythmic WKTU (103.5 KTU), Urban WWPR (Power 105.1) and Classic Rock WAXQ (Q104.3), and AC WALK/Nassau/Suffolk. Formerly at *Teen People*, Burns will be responsible for development and growth of all the online content for the NY cluster as well as national responsibilities as Sr. Content Director for the network's online music and radio, where she will be responsible for booking talent for their online programs.

"Clear Channel/NY is committed to providing superior content to our audience, not just through traditional broadcast means, but also via new technology, including our station websites," explained Sr. VP/Programming & Marketing Tom Poleman. "We identified Zena as a pioneer in the online world through her incredible work at *Teen People*. She knows what works online and how to integrate editorial and programming content with new media applications. Zena will manage our online brands with the same level of importance as we program our stations. Her role will be on par with our other program directors."

Day of the Child

Darryl "DMC" McDaniels of Run-DMC, rapper DMX, Mario and DJ Miss Saigon performed at this year's Day of the Child celebration November 18 at Chelsea Piers in New York. Presented by New York City's Administration for Children's Services and Children Uniting Nations, the Day of the Child is the community's way of reaching out to at-risk youth in an effort to expose them to mentors. More than 500 youths were paired with adult volunteer mentors.

Keep A Child Alive

Artists recently came together to lend support to a charity concert that benefits the Keep A Child Alive organization, which provides drugs for AIDS and HIV patients. Alicia Keys, supermodel Iman and her husband David Bowie and African artist Angelique Kidjo were among those performing at the annual Black Ball concert in NYC.

Hot 97 Listener Appreciation

New York City's #1 station for Hip Hop and R&B, Emmis Broadcasting's WQHT-FM (Hot 97), is throwing its first annual listener appreciation show on November 30. The station is giving away nearly 2,000 tickets to thank listeners in the tri-state area for making the station #1. The free concert will feature Ludacris, Chris Brown, Jim Jones, Akon, Saigon and Unk among others. Zune is sponsoring.

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

NBC kicked off the official opening of the holiday season with its 80th annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. Among this year's celebrities riding in the parade were Chris Brown, Ciara and Hall & Oates. The NBC televised parade was also simulcast on Telemundo.

WBLS Party Season

Inner City Broadcasting's WBLS-FM (107.5) moves into high gear for the holiday season with three galas. On December 2, WBLS co-sponsors a holiday double header at Madison Square Gardens, the Big Apple Classic, pitting basketball teams from Virginia Union University against Bowie State University and Howard University against Hampton University. The Big Throwdown follows at the



Apollo Theater with a step show and drumline competition hosted by WBLS morning personality Steve Harvey. Harvey also hosts the Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall with the Rockettes on December 5. The station is currently searching for a choir in its "One Choir, One Voice Holiday Competition" to sing on the show. On December 21st, the station holds its "Party With A Purpose" at the Marriott NY Marquis. Among scheduled performers are Tamia, Monica, Tyrese and Fantasia.

Season of Peace and Prosperity

In a dramatically staged show of unity, the Game and Fat Joe each emerged from different corners of the Virgin Megastore in Times Square on November 14 and met in the middle and held each other's hands up in unison. They then proceeded to buy each other's new albums, which were both released that day. Fat Joe was touting the release of *Me, Myself and I* and the Game, his new *The Doctor's Advocate*.



The Game and Fat Joe

"We touching the town. It's legendary; it's unity in hip-hop. I support the Game. His album is a classic," exclaimed Fat Joe, prompting the early Christmas shopping. "Y'all need to go out there and get that. It's like Christmas right now."

The Game, who is showcased on the song "Breathe and Stop" on Fat Joe's LP, responded in kind: "Joe is the King of New York. We holdin' it down, going dumb on the album."

Mixtape Awards at Apollo

DJ Red Alert will host the 10th Annual Justo Mixtape Awards, on December 7 at the Apollo Theater. Created by Justo Faison, who was tragically killed in 2005, the Justo Mixtape Awards will also honor his memory this year as it salutes mixtape DJs responsible for breaking new records and artists. This year Loud Records founder Steve Rifkind will receive the Mixtape Top Executive and Life Time Achievement Award. Contenders for other categories include Green Lantern, Kay Slay, Clinton Sparks, Camilio, Drama and K-Sly. Artists up for awards include Young Jeezy, Game, Papoose and Chamillionaire. DJs Kid Capri, Jazzy Joyce and Brucie B. will provide the sounds.

The Best of the Block Presents 1st Urban DVD Awards

Best of the Block, Inc, Littles, and Mook Diamond are holding the first annual Urban DVD Awards and 'New Big East Concert' on December 6 at NYC's Club Avalon. DJ Camillo and DJ Self along with WQHT-FM (Hot 97)'s DJ Enuuff host what organizers look to become an annual awards show. Among the categories saluted are Best DVD Documentary, Hottest Street DVD, Most Consistent Artist on a DVD and Hottest Biker DVD.

Following the awards presentations, Hot 97's Dee Vazquez kicks off the 'New Big East Concert,' which promoter Littles, also an artist, describes as "our intention...is to bring together the hottest emerging artists in each market and use this platform to show radio that these artists whom they're ignoring on their airwaves have an audience. Programmers and music directors have lost sight of the fact that hip-hop didn't come from call-outs, BDS, and Soundscans. Hip-hop gets its heart from the streets and if we're gonna keep the music alive, then radio needs to keep its ear in the streets as well."



Maino

Among scheduled artists are Saigon, Tru Life, Maino, Stack Bundles, Red Café, Jae Millz, Grafh, Littles, J-Hood, Stimuli, Uncle Murda, Yummy, and R&B group, Black Buddaffly.

Co-promoter Mook Diamond explains that this is the launch of a national initiative to open airwaves back to the sounds of the streets. After the artists are selected in each region, a concert will be promoted and mixtape hosted by top DJs will follow featuring the best from that concert (the NY mixtape is hosted by Kay Slay, Super Star Jay, and Big Mike). The promoters plan a national movement repeating the template as "The New Big South," "The New Big West," etc. Go to www.myspace.com/the-newbigeast for more information on the Artists to Watch campaign.

Da Life of a Singer: Oshy



Oshy

Harlem singer/songwriter Oshy (nee Thomas Bird) says he was inspired to become a performer by

his father, a member of the R&B group Total Climax. Pursuing his dream since age 15, Oshy, Cherokee (also part of his heritage) for 'the best comes,' hooked up with R&B/hip hop producer Ron Browz (Lil Kim, Snoop, 50 Cent, Ludacris, Lloyd Banks, et al) who encouraged his songwriting. Roger Pinnock, President/CEO of Dreamsound Records 1 Inc and the Dreamsound Studios located in the heart of Harlem, executive produced Oshy's debut project *Da Life of a Singer*. Released on Pinnock's indie label, Oshy's debut LP reveals a definite contender in the young sexy male vocalists. Oshy's distinctive vocals, however, set him apart from the pack and make him someone to keep on the radar. www.oshy.dreamsoundrecordsinc.com



MIDWEST

Illinois • Indiana • Wisconsin • Missouri • Iowa • Michigan • Ohio • Kentucky

Reporter: Jerome Simmons

V103's Space



Ciara's meet and greet with a few members of the V100.7 Hit Squad-- Ed, Kristin and Pyro--before her Milwaukee show.



Above: Doug E. Fresh stopped by the V100.7 studio before the Crown Royal Bad Boys of Comedy Show. (l-r) Doug E. Fresh and Reggie "Smooth As Butta" Brown, APD/MD/Afternoon Drive



Above: Young Jeezy stopped by the WKKV-FM (V100.7) studio in Milwaukee to promote his upcoming album, Street Legal. (l-r) Evening jock Wolf D and Young Jeezy



(l-r) Lil Boosie with Bailey Coleman, PD/Midday drive, and Reggie "Smooth As Butta" Brown, APD/MD and Afternoon Drive

Brion O'Brion Joins Kiss 105.3



Brion O'Brion

Brion O'Brion, former midday host at Entercom Broadcasting's WVKL-FM (95.7 R&B) in Virginia Beach and Clear Channel's

WKUS-FM (Kiss 105.3) in Norfolk, has relocated to Wichita, Kansas. He's now the overnight air personality at Clear Channel's Top 40 KZCH-FM (9.63) there. Contact O'Brion in his new position at radiodjbob1@aol.com.

Radio One Cleans Up Detroit Schools

Radio One's Detroit cluster WHTD-FM (Hot 102.7), WDMK-FM (105.9 Kiss) and WCHB-AM News (Talk 1200) recently reached out to the community for its "Remix Your Playground" initiative as a part of the Radio One L.I.F.E. Campaign. After evaluating numerous requests for playground improvements, the stations chose two schools to 'remix.'

McDonalds sponsored WDMK-FM (105.9 Kiss)'s clean-up and painting of the auditorium of Courville Elementary in Detroit, while sister station WHTD-FM (Hot 102.7) cleaned and painted the gym and cafeteria of Kosciusko Elementary in Detroit.

Radio One's "L.I.F.E Campaign" (Life Improvements For Everyone) is a nationwide effort by the radio chain to address the issues that plague our communities. Monthly, the program targets health education and finances in urban communities by bringing awareness, action and change. The goal is to have 22 Radio One markets focus on one issue at a time to make the most impact in the communities it serves.

Gospel Music Hall of Fame Celebrates 10th Anniversary



(l-r) David and Carolyn Gough, Prof. Iris Stevenson, Bishop P.A. Brooks, Merdean Fielding Gales, Rodena Preston, Kurt Carr, Bishop Albert Jamison

The 10th annual International Gospel Music Hall of Fame and Museum (IGMHFM) celebration recently honored this year's inductees and raised funds for a new museum site. New to the event this year were silent and live auctions of rare and collectible items to benefit the IGMHFM's capital campaign for its new facility. Among the items capturing high bids were memorabilia from former Detroit Tiger Willie Wattison Horton, gowns and purses from Vickie Winans, and an autographed photo of the late Rosa Parks.

The 2006 inductees, nominated from around the world and selected by the IGMHFM board to recognize their contributions to gospel music, have been involved in gospel music activities for at least 25 years. Among the previous inductees are Della Reese, Aretha Franklin, The Dixie Hummingbirds, Dr. Bobby Jones, Yolanda Adams, CeeCee Winans, Mississippi Mass Choir, Pilgrim Travelers and Donnie McClurkin. Pastor Marvin L. Winans, a 2002 inductee, served as Master of Ceremonies for this year's inductees: Professor Iris Stevenson, Merdean Fielding Gales, Joe Bagby, Bishop P.A. Brooks, Kurt Carr, the late Davis Sisters, Bishop Albert Jamison, Dr. Curtis Lewis, Take 6 and Rodena Preston.

Gospel performances throughout the evening included the group Zie'l, The Evereadys, Marcus Cole, Dr. Leonard Scott and past inductee, The Whitfield Co. comedian Horace H.B. Sanders. For more information on the Hall and future museum plans, visit www.igmhf.org.

Lupe Fiasco GQ's Breakout Man of the Year

Lupe Fiasco has been named one of *GQ Magazine's* "Men of the Year 2006," receiving the "Breakout" honors in the magazine's annual rankings. The Chicago rapper celebrated the GQ accolade with an appearance on the "Late Show with David Letterman," where he performed his new single "Daydreamin'," accompanied by Jill Scott, who is featured on the track. Fiasco's debut album, *Lupe Fiasco's Food & Liquor*, was recently released on 1st & 15th Records, through Atlantic.



Darrel Eason PDing KMJM

Clear Channel Urban AC KMJM-FM (Majic 104.9) has tapped APD/MD Darrel Eason to be the interim program director for the St. Louis station. He replaces former operations manager Chuck Atkins, who left the station earlier last month.

Brandi Browne Upped To APD For URB/Toledo Cluster

Urban Radio Broadcasting LLC Director/Urban Programming Rocky Love has named Brandi Browne as APD of the company's Toledo cluster of stations. This is a newly created position for the cluster, which includes Urban WJZE (Hot 97.3) and Urban AC WIMX (Mix 95.9). Browne will also continue her position as mid-day host at WIMX.

Steve Harvey Adds Another Beat

Clear Channel's Urban KATZ-FM (100.3 The Beat) in St. Louis began airing "The Steve Harvey Morning Show" on November 27th. The show replaces the "Dee Lee Morning Show" and will air weekdays from 5-9am. This marks Harvey's 40th affiliate station.

Nelly & Crew Open For Business

Rapper Nelly and his camp the St. Lunatics recently opened Macks Bar and Grill in Hazelwood, Missouri. The owners include Murphy Lee, Ali, Nelly, Kyjuan and Slodown. The new hangout was supposed to celebrate its grand opening in April, but finally opened its doors on November 1st. The establishment can accommodate a crowd of 150 in the 3,500-square-foot sports bar/restaurant.



Jones says a police officer was abusive, slapping on handcuffs after a minor traffic violation and ultimately zapping him with a stun gun while the police department said he resisted arrest, damaged a police car and kicked the officer.

The opening of the sports bar was almost overshadowed by an October 14th incident in which Macks co-owner Ali was allegedly brutalized by a local Hazelwood police officer according to the *St. Louis News*. The rapper was shocked almost 50 times with a 50,000-volt taser gun as the police officer arrested him for a traffic violation.

Angie Stone Joins 'Soul Kittens'

Neo-soul singer Angie Stone has joined a cabaret show being produced by Brownstone singer Nicci Gilbert called "Soul Kittens." The show is being dubbed as a cross between "Dreamgirls" and "The Pussycat Dolls." The musical kicked off November 18th in Detroit and includes a bevy of vocal powerhouses who have lined up for the production. The other singers and actresses in "Soul Kittens" include Syleena Johnson, Trenyce of "American Idol," Tatyana Ali, Monifah, Tammy Townsend ("Rock Me Baby"), Gilbert and a host of new talent.

WHHH's 12 Days of Christmas A Stakeout

Radio One Top 40/Rhythmic WHHH-FM (Hot 96.3) in Indianapolis is gearing up for its annual 12 Days Of Christmas toy drive hosted by afternoon air personality Jay Rio. He challenges the community to contribute to the drive by challenging his own personal comfort. This year, Rio will be living on the Penske Chevrolet parking lot in Indianapolis for 12 days and 12 nights. He will eat, sleep and broadcast his show live from the Penske lot, collecting toys for the Indiana Pacer Jermaine O'Neil's J-7-0 Foundation. Listeners will be encouraged to bring their toy donations to Rio at any time during the 12-day stakeout.



SOUTHEAST

Alabama • Florida • Georgia

Reporters: Diamond Jim Sears and Jammin' Jammie

Save Room for Seconds



Sony Recording artist John Legend dropped by the WFCB-FM (STAR 94.5) Orlando studios after Thanksgiving to eat, meet and greet several lucky listeners who won the chance to have dinner with the artist and see the three-time Grammy award winner in concert at HOB. (l-r) John Legend and WCFB Program Director, Kevin Gardner

UniverSoul Circus Partners With Hosea Feed the Hungry

This Thanksgiving Atlantans had a little more to be thankful for. UniverSoul Circus and the Hosea Feed the Hungry and Homeless organization teamed up with Atlanta Public Schools, Clayton County and DeKalb County schools to support the second annual "Food For The Soul" food drive. Benefiting the Hosea Food for the Hungry and Homeless Annual Thanksgiving Dinner, the food drive encourages students to help Atlantans in need. "As a part of the Atlanta community, UniverSoul Circus is proud to help The Hosea Williams organization, which brings hope and joy to thousands of our neighbors every holiday season," said Operations Director, Ben Johnson.

JD's Southern Hospitality

Jermaine Dupri welcomed the BET Hip Hop Awards to Atlanta with a "Welcome to Atlanta" Pre-BET Hip Hop Awards party co-presented by Hennessy, Boost Mobile and BET. Com. The star studded party was decorated with dancing girls on table tops while iced-out party-goers like Da Brat, Snoop Dogg, Nelly and Monica popped bottles of champagne.

Right: Super producer Jermaine Dupri and multi-platinum recording artist Nelly greet Snoop Dogg after his impromptu performance at the pre-BET Hip Hop Awards party.



Above: Da Brat and Snoop Dogg at the pre-BET Hip Hop Awards party.



Nelly & Snoop Dogg take a minute to pose for the camera at the "Welcome to Atlanta" party.

Cumulus' Talia Ashley Chooses Star Power

Former Cumulus Broadcasting employee, Talia Ashley, leaves radio to launch a new public relations and marketing company, Star Power. The former Promotions Director of Cumulus Albany, has seven active clients including: DJ CeCe Afterdark and BET Comedian Shawn Harris (the late Robin Harris' nephew.)

Lil Scrappy Life Story On Web TV Show

In a new web marketing effort, Reprise Records has launched "G's Up TV," an online TV show starring Lil Scrappy to promote his upcoming album *Bred 2 Die, Born 2 Live*. Each episode will feature the Atlanta-born rapper relating his long journey from the underbelly of the dirty South to becoming a successful recording star. The show includes guest appearances by friends Lil Jon, Three 6 Mafia, Young Buck, Jaime Kennedy & Stu Stone, Young Dro, Jessi Malay and producer Aqua (Jay-Z). Scrappy appears in a variety of skits such as holding a cognac tasting with Lil Jon, going on a food run with his boys and sneaking into the master tape vault at a secret location.

"The current climate requires us to be innovative and resourceful when it comes to delivering content to consumers and fans," says Sr. Director of Creative & Visual Content Denise Williams. "We built and housed our set at Warner Bros./Reprise Records' office in order to transform and create an environment for any artist from any genre." Adds VP New Media, Jeremy Welt, "The show was designed to work everywhere - from TV to the web and mobile devices. We wrote, filmed and edited it from day one with multiple distribution channels in mind." Now that more and more music fans are tuning in to content on such websites as YouTube, AOL Music, and their mobile devices, it made sense for Reprise to devise an online show that works across all channels to give Scrappy broadened exposure.

Rick Ross Launches Charity

Miami rapper Rick Ross is organizing the Rick Ross Charities, to create educational, social and mentoring programs that will help improve the quality of life for youngsters. Ross will officially launch the organization December 2 during the Florida Entertainment Summit at Rain nightclub. "I started Rick Ross Charity to give back a positive influence to the negative situations our youth endure everyday," said Ross. The fundraiser is expected to attract Miami's A-list Hip-Hop clientele, including producers Cool & Dre, DJ Khaled and the Poe Boy family. The 2nd Annual Florida Entertainment Summit takes place from December 1-3 in Miami, Florida.



Gordon

"Flash" Gordon New GM James Brown Arena

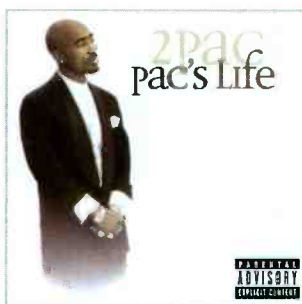
The Augusta-Richmond County Coliseum Authority made Robert "Flash" Gordon the new General Manager for the James Brown Arena (formerly the Civic Center) and Bell Auditorium. Gordon has been working in the music industry in various capacities for more than 40 years as a record storeowner, radio personality, concert promoter and regional promotions manager for Mercury-Polydor Records. Gordon, who launched Pyramid Music in 1976, plans to rescue the struggling facilities by bringing in top musical talent. For more information, go to www.pyramidmusicandmore.com

Crime Mob Dance Craze

The Atlanta-based rap group, Crime Mob ("Knuck If You Buck"), will release *Hated On Mostly*, on Reprise/BME Recordings on January 9th. Produced by Lil Jay, Killa C, MIG, Dirty Doc Jam and the Oomp Camp, the new album represents the inner city reality of this sextet (Cyclo Black, Diamond, Lil Jay, Princess, MIG and Killa C). Their own rebellious description is "they are not pop, they are not contrived and they don't care what people think."

The video for the first single "Rock Yo Hips" was recently shot by director Dr. Teeth (Mike Jones, T.I., Pitbull, Notorious B.I.G.) at Morris Brown College in Atlanta, GA. Showcasing the vibrancy and variety of music, dance and fashion of HBCUs, the video is a three-minute glimpse into the social network and culture of college life.

The single may create the next southern dance craze. Hundreds showed up to audition for dancing roles in the video, which also marks the debut of the "Rock Yo Hips" dance developed by Crime Mob's leading ladies, Diamond and Princess.



More 'Pac's Life'

Pac's Life, was released by Amaru/Interscope Records on November 21st featuring contributions from Ludacris, Snoop Dogg, Keyshia Cole, T.I., Ashanti, Young Buck, Lil Scrappy, Carl Thomas, Outlawz, Bone Thugs-N- Harmony, Big Syke, Papoose. The album features production from LT Hutton, Sha Money XL, Swizz Beatz and more.

Recently, the Tupac Amaru Shakur Center for the Arts was also the setting for the new video for the single "Pac's Life" featuring T.I. and Ashanti.

Since 2Pac's tragic death ten years ago, his mother Afeni Shakur has continued to get his complete body of work out through the Tupac Amaru Shakur Foundation (TASF). TASF was founded by Afeni Shakur to provide training and support to artists who aspire to enhance their creative talents. To date, more than 600 students have benefited from the program with a broad range of training available via the Annual Performing Arts Day Camp held at the Tupac Amaru Shakur Center for the Arts just outside Atlanta in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

Jammin' Jammie Goes Hollywood



Actor Steven Seagal and Jammin' Jammie



The New Music Awards recently nominated Rivers Broadcasting's WGOV-FM (Magic 95) Jammin' Jammie Brooks for Music Director of the Year and the MD/air personality made his first trip to Hollywood, CA for the awards at the Avalon.

Jammin' "Hollywood" Jammie

Angie Stone Joins Sisters in the Spirit Tour

Fresh off of her appearance on VH1's "Celebrity Fit Club," soul singer Angie Stone has joined the lineup for ALW Entertainment's "Sisters in the Spirit" tour. The inspirational tour kicks off January 29, 2007 in Memphis and runs until March 4, ending in Atlanta. Also onboard are Shirley Caesar, Kelly Price, Dorinda Clark Cole and evangelist Dr. Yvonne Capehart. R&B veteran Patricia Rushen will serve as musical director for the tour. Al Wash, CEO of ALW Entertainment, said he plans to announce the last artist for "Sisters in the Spirit" in the coming weeks. For additional details on the tour, visit www.alwe.com.

Young Jeezy Inspiring

Young Jeezy and his label Corporate Thugz Entertainment are offering a \$1000 scholarship, autographed album and poster and a pizza party for the entire senior class to the winning entry in their "What Inspires You" essay contest. High school students in the metro Atlanta area are eligible to participate by submitting a 300 words or less essay explaining where their daily inspiration comes from.

Young Jeezy's latest single and video, "Bury Me A G," from his upcoming Def Jam album *The Inspiration* releasing December 12, reenacts a shooting in front of an Atlanta nightclub. The video was directed by Jesse and Uly Terrero and features cameo appearances by The Wire's Michael K. Williams and Hassan Johnson.



MIDSOUTH

Texas • Oklahoma • Arkansas • Louisiana • Mississippi

Music World Entertainment Signs Teen Male Group 2 Much

The Houston-headquartered label, Music World Entertainment has signed the next B2K, says Chris Stokes, founder of the popular male group. Artist Omarion initially signed the L.A.-based teen trio to his O Record label, but during a NYC B2K show, Stokes spotted what he says was the missing link to the group. After an audition for Omarion, Connecticut native Myles Cleveland was added to the group that included Chris Stokes' son Milo Stokes, Marcel Wildy and Chris Cheeks.



Max Gousse with newly signed Music World Music teen male group

"I saw something special that I've never seen in a young boys group before," said Stokes. "They're like the new Jackson Five."

Remembering when his son, Milo, expressed interest in following in cousin Omarion's footsteps, Chris said, "I hate it, but he loves the business so whatever my son wants, I want to back him up."



2 Much

According to Omarion, "I know this might be a big cliché, but I think they're B2K, a different version... a better version."

Knowles and his Sr. VP of A&R Max Gousse saw a showcase of the group and immediately signed them with the anticipation of a 2007 release via O/T.U.G./ Music World Music. The group will join other MWE artists, J Xavier and Mic Little (who's signed to Def Jam) on the national MX2 national teen tour next spring.

New Orleans CC Gospel Flips To Rock

Clear Channel's Urban Gospel KHEV-FM (104.1) has flipped its format to rock under the new moniker WRNO. Previously the heritage rock station in New Orleans, WRNO flipped formats earlier to News Talk at 99.5. It retains the call letters of WRNO but assumes KHEV's dial at 104.1.

KVSP Promotes Corleone

Perry Broadcasting in Oklahoma City has promoted from within its ranks at its Urban KVSP-FM (Power 103.5). According to Operations Manager Terry Monday, Jo Corleone has been promoted to the new MD. Corleone, who has been the station's mixmaster, will still continue with those duties.

Ultimate Brass Balls



New Orleans brass band Bonorama served as the house band for the recent Comic Relief 2006 show taped at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas that has been airing on HBO and TBS in November. The show raised funds for Katrina relief. The band, called the ultimate in brass balls by *Rolling Stone Magazine*, consists of four trombonists--band leaders Mark Mullins and Craig Klein, Steve Suter and Rick Trolsen--sousaphone player Matt Perrine, experimental guitarist Bert Cottin and a rotating cast of New Orleans drummers that includes Russell Batiste, Stanton Moore, Eric Bolivar and Terence Higgins. The group is currently recording its third album live at Tipitina's.

Grammy Honors Texas Talent

Photos courtesy of The Recording Academy, by Scott Newton/Wireimage.com

The Texas Chapter of The Recording Academy saluted its Texas talent—"outstanding individuals and institutions who have contributed to the creative community and community-at-large"—at its fundraising gala at the Austin Convention Center on November 23. Honorees included Yolanda Adams, Swishahouse, ZZ Top and South by Southwest co-founders. Special presentations were made by Swishahouse Senior VP of Marketing and Promotions Mike Clarke, congressman Lloyd Doggett,



Vice Chairman of The Recording Academy Jimmy Jam; Swishahouse President of A&R, T. Farris; Texas Chapter of The Recording Academy Executive Director Theresa Jenkins; G Dash, DJ Michael "5000" Watts, and Swishahouse Senior VP of Marketing and Promotions Mike Clarke.

Swishahouse President of A&R T. Farris, four-time Grammy winner Jimmy Jam, and Academy Award® winner and singer/songwriter Billy Bob Thornton. Crystal, Cootie Bang, E-Class, Alejandro Escovedo, Archie Lee, Lil Keke, Mary Mary, Yung Redd, the Robert Fortune Band and Paul Wall were among the performers with nine-time Grammy-winner and leader of Asleep At The Wheel Ray Benson hosting the evening.



Yolanda Adams and Mary Mary



Paul Wall performs in honor of Swishahouse

Hip Hop Conference Organizes Stop the Violence

In September 2006 New Orleans reached its 100th homicide of the year—a staggering milestone for a city that has already experienced so much devastation and upheaval. In addition to an increasing homicide rate, New Orleans has seen an increase in suicides, depression, substance abuse, and domestic violence. The non-profit, non-partisan Hip Hop Caucus held a Town Hall meeting over the Thanksgiving holidays to address the problems and announce a plan to curb the rising violence in the Katrina-ravaged areas through youth-led initiatives.

Organizers invited young people from all over the Gulf Coast region as well as politicians, city officials, community activists, celebrities and artists that included Slim Thug, BG, Mia X, Joe Blakk, Head-Roc, DJ Jubilee,



Sess4-5, Fifth Ward Weebie and L.O.G.

"Tragically, violence is igniting among youth, many of whom find themselves shut out of the rebuilding process. The increase in violence, which has emerged as a result of despair and desperation, has been intensified by the failure of the government to adequately and comprehensively provide access to education, employment, or even hope of a positive future for young people," commented Rev. Lennox Yearwood Jr, President of the Hip Hop Caucus that maintains offices in both Washington, D.C. and New Orleans.

Visit www.hhci.org for more information.



Rev. Yearwood Jr



MIDATLANTIC

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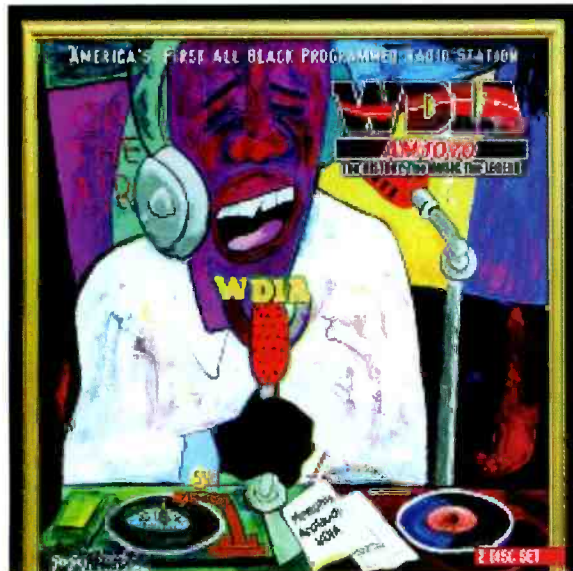
Reporter: Rosalind R. Ray, Esq.

Heritage WDIA Co-Founder Dies

John R. Pepper, II, co-founder of Memphis heritage station WDIA-AM (1070) died at the age of 91 on November 20. Pepper and his partner Bert Ferguson originally launched the station in 1948, soon converting the part-time urban programming to a fulltime urban format with an all Black air staff, the first such radio station in the country. Now owned by Clear Channel, WDIA continues its strong following and ratings in the city.

Where To Get Your Piece Of WDIA History

Capitalizing on its longtime heritage and the historical music that emanated from the Memphis area, the home of Stax Records, WDIA currently has its double CD *WDIA: The History, The Music, The Legend*, first released in 2005, at retail. Narrated by WDIA personality James Davis, who was just released from the station



this month in Clear Channel's downsizing, the first disc is an aural history of WDIA, the nation's first all-black radio station, with actual broadcasts that include jingles and snippets of Pigmeat Markham and Nat D. Williams with Rufus Thomas hawking Pink Pussy Cat Wine. The second disc is a compilation of contemporary Memphis soul and blues including such artists as Johnny Taylor, Ben Cauley, William Bell, the Barkays and the Climates. The CD is a little piece of the 'Goodwill Station's' aural history.

Clear Channel Cuts in Memphis

Clear Channel's Memphis cluster has been hit with downsizing cuts. Urban AC KJMS (V101.1) night jock Michael Slack has exited along with morning team personality James Davis from its WDIA-AM (1070) counterpart, and Simone Party, midday personality at WHRK-FM (K-97), are among the cuts.

Memphis Welcomes National Media Reform Conference

On January 12-14, 2007, the National Conference for Media Reform will convene in Memphis with a list of speakers that includes Jesse Jackson, Davey D, Benjamin Hooks, Phil Donahue, Bill Moyers, Jane Fonda, FCC Commissioners Copps and Adelstein and others. More than 2,000 activists, educators, media makers, journalists, policymakers and concerned citizens will gather at the Memphis Cook Convention Center to discuss how to create a better media system. For more information, go to www.freepages.com.

WWIN PD Tim Watts Returns to Michael Baisden Slot

Radio One's Urban AC WWIN-FM (MAGIC 95.9) in Baltimore reports that it has replaced the ABC syndicated Michael Baisden Show that had been running in afternoons with its former air personality in that timeslot, its PD Tim Watts. Although the move is not reported as permanent, Watts who had moved to middays to accommodate the addition of Baisden, made the move instead of continuing to run the show with the temporary replacement host Mo'Nique. Initially ABC had been running a series of *The Best of Michael Baisden*, bringing in Mo'Nique on November 13 to continue with new shows. Officially Baisden has been on medical leave. Rumors are circulating, however, that he is trying to move over to Reach Media to gain more control of his show.

Ludacris Leads YouthAids Kick Me Campaign

The D.C.-based YouthAids organization, a global initiative that reaches more than 60 countries with its HIV/AIDS awareness programs aimed at the younger populace, tapped rapper Ludacris as its Ambassador for



YouthAid for its "Kick Me" campaign. Ludacris will speak in four different cities—UCLA in Los Angeles; Northwestern University in Chicago; NYU in NYC; and George Washington University in D.C. MTV is scheduled to tape his last stop in D.C. as he speaks about the pandemic which has claimed more than 20 million lives. The Kick Me Campaign delivers the message that most people carrying HIV/AIDS may not be aware they are infected, by comparing the ignorance to someone with a "kick me" sign on their back. "Kick Me" is based on the prank of someone sticking a Kick Me sign on another's back without their knowledge, just like 90% of those infected with HIV/AIDS may not know they are carrying the virus.

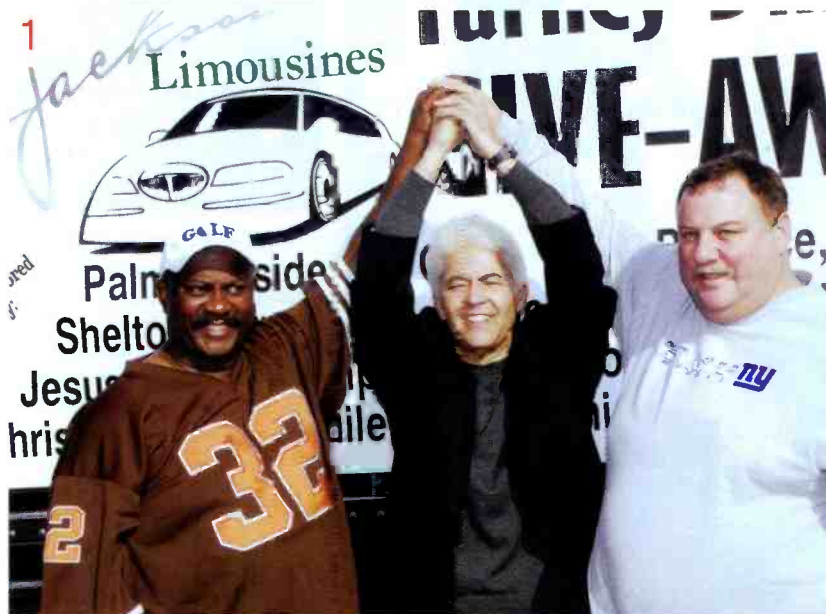
XM Nation Awards Announced

Online voting for the Second Annual XM Nation Awards is currently available at <http://www.xmradio.com/xmnation> until midnight ET on December 4. Launched last year to honor both emerging and established artists, the award winners will be announced on December 12. For the first time, this year fans voting online can also write in their choices for select categories, including submitting names for the artist they would most like to see host their own XM show. Among current categories are Dream Duet, Wish You Were Still Here, On The Rebound, Dashboard Anthem, and Keep Your Day Job.

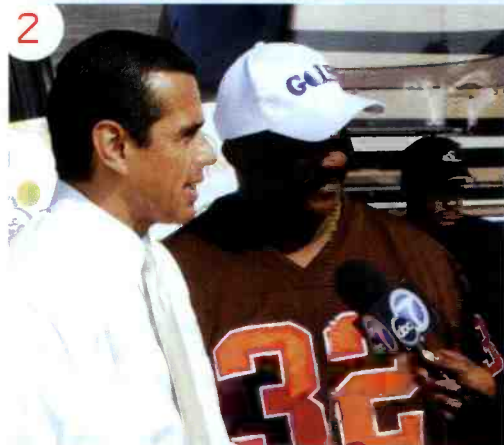
BIG SHOTS

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Biggest Turkey Giveaway In the Nation



Jackson Limousines are integral to making sure celebrities and community members arrive at all the awards shows, parties, television shows, movie premiers and other events in Los Angeles and surrounding areas. Its party buses are always booked and whether it's a Las Vegas video shoot or a concert in San Diego, former football star E.J. Jackson, Jackson's owner, and staff always deliver 150%. Another delivery they've been making is an annual affair for Jacksons—its annual Thanksgiving turkey giveaway. Having steadily grown each year, this year's event increased its turkey and trimmings giveaway by 25%. This year the staff, volunteers, celebrities, politicians and radio stations gathered again before Thanksgiving to dispense some 10,000 turkey boxes, complete with a whole uncooked turkey and accompanying vital foods to make complete meals, to the needy in the Los Angeles area. Serving lines that wrapped around the blocks of its Palms headquarters, Jacksons says this is the largest turkey giveaway in the nation. This year's sponsors included celebrities like Jamie Foxx and Timbaland as well as John Cossette Productions (Grammys,) Capital Group, Palms Residential Care and Value Produce, among others.



① Owner of Jackson's Limo, E.J. Jackson; Anheuser Busch distributor Byron Galore; and Grammy producer John Cossette celebrate another successful turkey giveaway. ② L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa joined E.J. Jackson to lend a hand. ③ Congresswoman Maxine Waters with Jackson's owner E.J. Jackson and County Supervisor Yvonne Braithwaite Burke ④ Congresswoman Maxine Waters and BRE Founder Sidney Miller. ⑤ Lyn Harris of Jacksons Limo joins event co-sponsor John Cossette of John Cossette Productions.



Jazz on the Grass Benefits Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarships

94.7 the Wave's Pat Prescott hosted a jazz picnic at the home of producer Osbourne Scott in Sherman Oaks, California benefiting the Jackie Robinson Foundation. Seven students received full scholarships at the jazz gala that included Lalah Hathaway, Patti Austin, Freda Payne, George Duke, Kenny Rankin and Karen Briggs, among others.—Photos by Willie Tassain (323) 232-6391



George and Corinne Duke



Patti Austin and Lalah Hathaway



Ozzie Scott, Jr., Lyane and Oz Scott and daughter Brittany



Freda Payne

Webber Launches Restaurant Chain in Sacramento



NBA star Chris Webber, currently playing with the Philadelphia 76ers, held a grand opening on November 14 in Sacramento of the first of a planned six family restaurants called Center Court with C Webb. The entertainment-themed restaurants are part of a partnership between Webber and Dudum Sports that combine a dining experience with tributes to basketball's heroes.

"I am excited that Chris chose to begin our partnership of unique basketball restaurants in Sacramento, where he spent many successful seasons," says Jeff Dudum, founder of Dudum Sports and Entertainment.

According to Webber, who also recently contributed some production to Nas new Def Jam album, *Hip Hop Is Dead...the N*, which ships December 19, "I'm happy to be opening what will be an immensely successful and popular restaurant that families can enjoy together."

L.A. Traffic From The Reyes Bros.

Sen Dog and Mellow Man Ace, collectively known as the Reyes Brothers set out to capture the West Coast car culture in their recent video for their new single "Traffic." Joining up with director Estevan Oriol, they shot scenes in their hometown of South Gate, California as well as Compton and downtown Los Angeles. Replete with the 'gas/break/dip' car scenes, pitbulls, roosters, low-lows, backyard BBQs and plenty of girls, the single is from their latest album *Ghetto Therapy*.

KJLH Names Morning Host

Adai Lamar, who has been co-hosting the morning show handling news and entertainment for Taxi's Urban AC KJLH-FM (102.3), has been officially named the new morning show host. Replacing Cliff Winston, who unexpectedly segued over to late afternoons at KKBT-FM (100.3 the Beat) last month, Lamar's new morning show, "Adai and the Hometeam," marks the first time an African American female has held led mornings at the station.

Beat Midday Turnovers

PD Kevin Fleming recently released Radio One's KKBT-FM (100.3 the Beat) midday personality Ananda Lewis. The former MTV hostess had joined the Los Angeles staff as the co-host with John Salley for the short-lived morning show and was then moved to middays when "The Tom Joyner Morning Show" replaced Salley.

Shirley Hayes is the expected replacement with the Poetess filling the slot in the interim. Hayes, a veteran radio personality, has worked with both Clear Channel at Urban AC WVAZ-FM (V103) in Chicago and Inner City Urban AC KBLX in San Francisco.



Adai Lamar

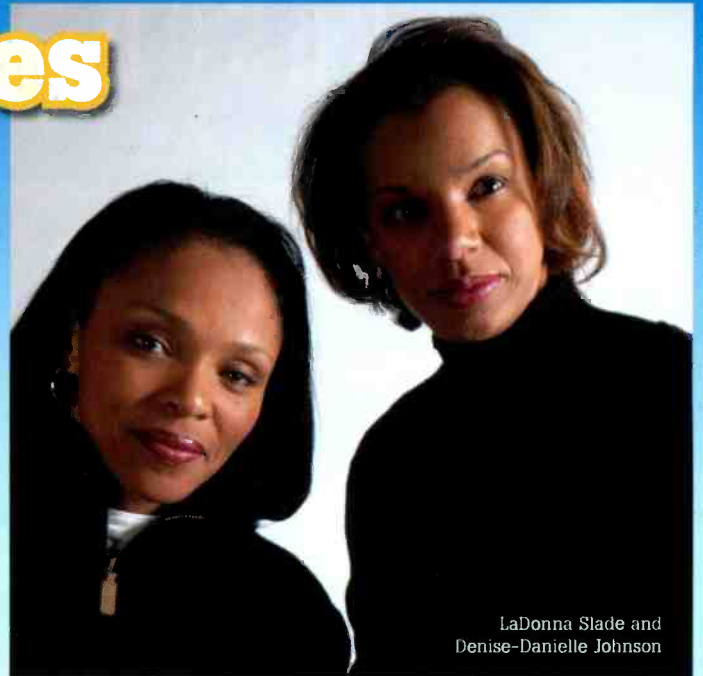
L&D Ministries

Extending Healing, Hope and Holiness

Two young women are serving up a new kind of ministry in the Bay Area that offers healing, hope and holiness—three qualities espoused on their new CD *H3* released in November on their independent label Kuria International Records. Internationally recognized vocalist LaDonna Slade, who grew up in the church in southern California singing in the choir, joined Philadelphia writer/photographer Denise-Danielle Johnson, who was also a minister, to form L&D Ministries, Inc. Together the two have been developing a unique ministry aimed at the ‘dechurched’ as well as churched with practical steps on how to “walk with Christ.”

“There are many second and third generations of people not finding what they need in church,” Slade explains. “They’ve been hurt and perhaps left the church, but not the reality of God,” adds Johnson. Through their weekly radio show called “How Did Get Here” heard on KDYA-AM (1190) every Saturday morning, their bi-weekly Bible study conference call (866-295-5950) called the Pearl Patch, their local and international appearances especially in Panama City, Panama, and now the just released CD *H3*, L&D Ministries looks to offer alternatives for people who want to continue to hold onto God’s word.

Slade, currently a Berklee College of Music student, had previously released a solo project called *A Sense of Things*. She started bringing in Johnson, who added the spoken word and more of a presentation element, to her performances and discovered the audiences were not only moved but also more responsive. Four years later, the two have effected a spirited ministry that weaves music, words, illustrations and Biblical truths that empower others to not only increase their faith in God but to also become more effective in their everyday living. Johnson, whose grandmother was an evangelist, explains their approach as one that works on “having a relationship with God personally.”



LaDonna Slade and Denise-Danielle Johnson

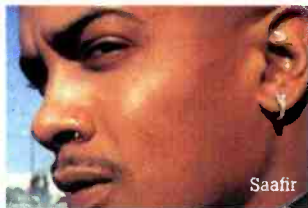
The radio show, which has welcomed such special guests as Pastor Frederick K. C. Price, Bishop Eddie Long, Tye Tribbett, Bishop E. C. Reems-Dickerson, Pastor Carl Smith, Pastor Bill Winston, Honorable Mayor Irma Anderson of Richmond, California and former Temptations member Dennis Edwards, has helped spread their inspirational and informative ministry in the Oakland area. But one of their ministries to Panama encouraged them to extend their reach through a CD. *H3* addresses the three components of their ministry: healing—“Identify the lies that have caused the hurt,” explains Slade—hope and holiness. An upcoming book based on the mentality of David and Solomon is also planned that can be accessed on their website at www.ldmi.org

Prince Airs Vegas Show Live

Las Vegas welcomed Prince as a regular performer in November as he debuted his show from his new club 3121 at the Rio Hotel. He has committed to perform live at the new spot every Friday and Saturday for the next six months. Additionally, CBS Radio Top 40/Rhythmic KLUC-FM aired the opening show live from 3121 and is negotiating becoming his exclusive radio partner for the Vegas shows.

Bay Area Rapper Saafir Transition

With a new album titled *Good Game: The Transition* on a new label, ABB Records, Oakland rapper Saafir is back on the musical scene after more than a seven year hiatus. Now calling himself Shaft Sizzle, Saafir professes a new spirituality in the Islamic faith that he embraced while out of the game and battling spinal cancer.



Saafir

Jingle Bells

The Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium welcomes Mapleton Communications Alternative/HipHop KMBY-FM (The X103.9 Revolution)’s Jingle Balls concert on December 6. The concert blends rock and hip hop and expects Lupe Fiasco, Breed 77, The Team and Papa Roach, among others.

New Jammin’ Hip Hop in Monterey/Salinas

Buckley Radio’s Top 40/Mainstream KYZZ-FM (Z-979) relaunched on November 15 as “the new jammin’ 97.9 where hip hop lives.” The new format was introduced by playing a five-hour stretch of Bob Marley’s “Jammin’.” Tommy Del Rio, already PD of Classic Rock K100-FM and Top 40/Rhythmic KSEQ-FM (Q97) in Fresno, assumes PD responsibilities.

Fox Sports College Football Features Wylde Bunch Anthem

When you hear “Yeah Yeah (Stomp the Bleachers)” on the Fox Sports College Football nationally televised games, think Wylde Bunch. The Los Angeles 10-piece alternative hip-hop group, comprised of family and long-time friends, is featured in a video for the games with its new anthem bumping up the sports fans’ adrenalin. A fusion of funk, jazz, soul, rock and hip hop sound, Wylde Bunch, who has performed with Common, O.A.R. and toured with Black-Eyed Peas, are currently recording new songs for a full length album due Spring ’07 on SurfDog Records.



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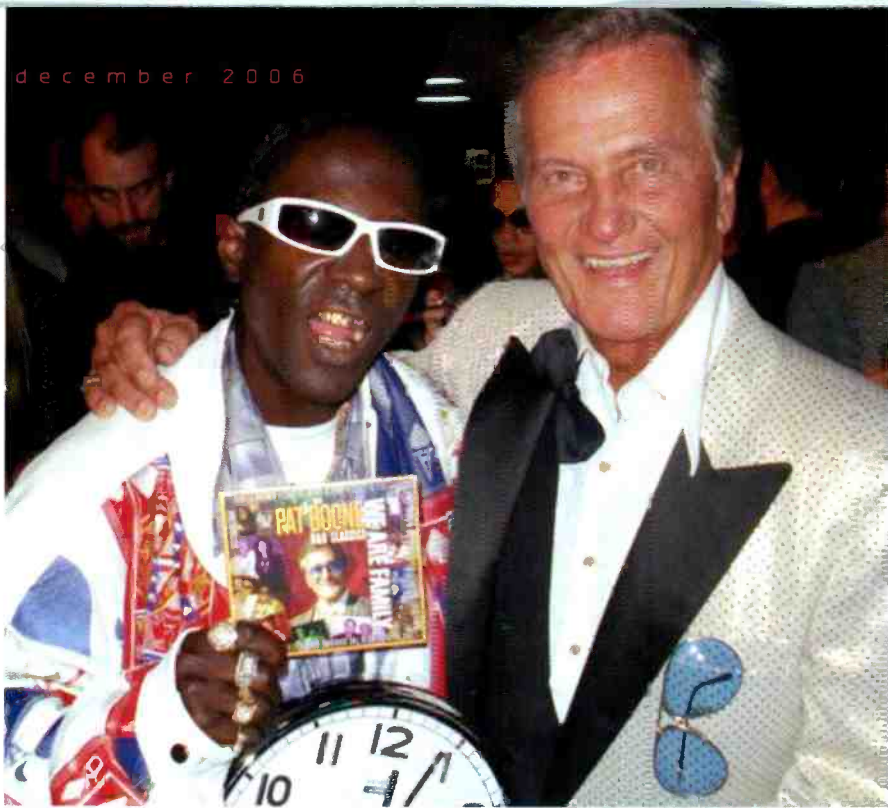
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Plava Flav shares his clock with Pat Boone as Old School meets New School at the recent American Music Awards—Photo by Ollie E. Brown

Gospel artist Kirk Franklin was given the award for “Favorite Contemporary Inspirational Artist” recently at the 2006 American Music Awards announced live on ABC at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. “A lot of people who say that they are Christians don’t always represent... I wanna make sure that when you see my life, that it’s a life that you can really be proud of,” Franklin said during his acceptance speech.

LL Cool J tells MTV News that his days of recording with Def Jam are numbered. He owes the company one more CD, but is leaning towards not re-signing, in part because of the label president Jay-Z. “How am I gonna re-sign with competition? I’m not an idiot,” LL said of his label boss. “I can’t depend on that man to promote my record while he’s somewhere writing rhymes... I’m LL Cool J. I ain’t doing that.” LL said he hasn’t decided what his next home may be, but he joked that he might even come back to Def Jam for the right paper. As previously announced, 50 Cent is executive producing LL’s next studio album.

Recovering songstress Whitney Houston returned to Los Angeles following the Thanksgiving holiday and wasn’t too happy to find waiting paparazzi. When Whitney spotted photogs filming her at LAX, she immediately grabbed her daughter, Bobbi Kristina, and hid her from the shutterbugs.

I ran into Jay-Z the other night when I was leaving Jazz At Lincoln Center before he did his one-day hangar tour. He lives at the same building that houses Jazz At Lincoln Center. I had just done an item on him scheduling a seven-city tour in one day to promote his new album *Kingdom Come*, so I said: “Hey Jay-Z.” He said: “Hey, baby,” as he got out



Halle Berry with boyfriend/model/restaurateur Gabriel Aubry—Photo by Dave Allicca for Star Pix

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By Syndicated Columnist Florence Anthony

of his two-toned Mercedes Maybach. I asked him: “Are you really going to go to seven cities in one day?” He told me: “I’m going to try.” And he did pull it off. The day began at 7 a.m. in Atlanta and ended at 3 a.m. in Las Vegas. Meanwhile, Jay-Z has been selected by men’s magazine GQ as its 11th annual Man of the Year.

Tongues are wagging that Halle Berry’s boyfriend, Gabriel Aubry, opened a restaurant, Café Fuego in Manhattan’s East Village. They had a Hennessy cognac tasting. Gabriel says that prior to being a model, he was a cook. He said he planned to have Susan Sarandon and Tim Robbins, along with “my girlfriend” for Thanksgiving dinner.

Despite denials of the rumor that Chief Minister Michael Misick, of Turks and Caicos Islands, who is the new husband of “All Of Us” actress LisaRaye, impregnated a Miami woman, my sources say the baby has already been born and the mother is an employee of American Airlines. Stay tuned.

On a new record, rapper Lil’ Wayne bares his soul about his cheating ex-fiancée Trina, with whom he was involved for the past year. According to Lil’ Wayne, the romance fizzled out, and, on the record, he reveals his lady cheated on him (expressing no love lost, but he’s not looking back).

Speaking of relationships, Chris Rock and his wife Malaak Compton-Rock, looked very much in love at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund annual dinner on November 16 at the New York Hilton. It had been rumored that the couple was divorcing. Spike Lee’s wife Tonya was the chairperson for the evening, which honored AOL Time Warner CEO Richard Parsons. His award was presented by Vernon Jordan. Al Roker was the emcee. Attendees included Spike Lee, film/television producer Adrienne Lopez and Mark Ferguson, Lynn Whitfield and Jimmie Lee Solomon and Cicely Tyson.

It’s been over three years since Frenchie Davis took America by storm as the leading contestant on the hit show “American Idol.” Although the big-voiced diva was bounced from the show in 2003, she holds no regrets and currently is winning audiences over as one of the leading vocalists in the Broadway hit play “Rent.” On Monday, December 4, Frenchie takes her talent to Harlem’s grand Alhambra Ballroom, Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd. at 126th Street, as the featured performer for Gay Men of African Descent’s (GMAD) annual Angel Award ceremony. She, along with spoken-word artist Stacy Ann Chin, will help New York City’s leading support organization and resource center for the LGBT community of color celebrate its 20th anniversary.

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