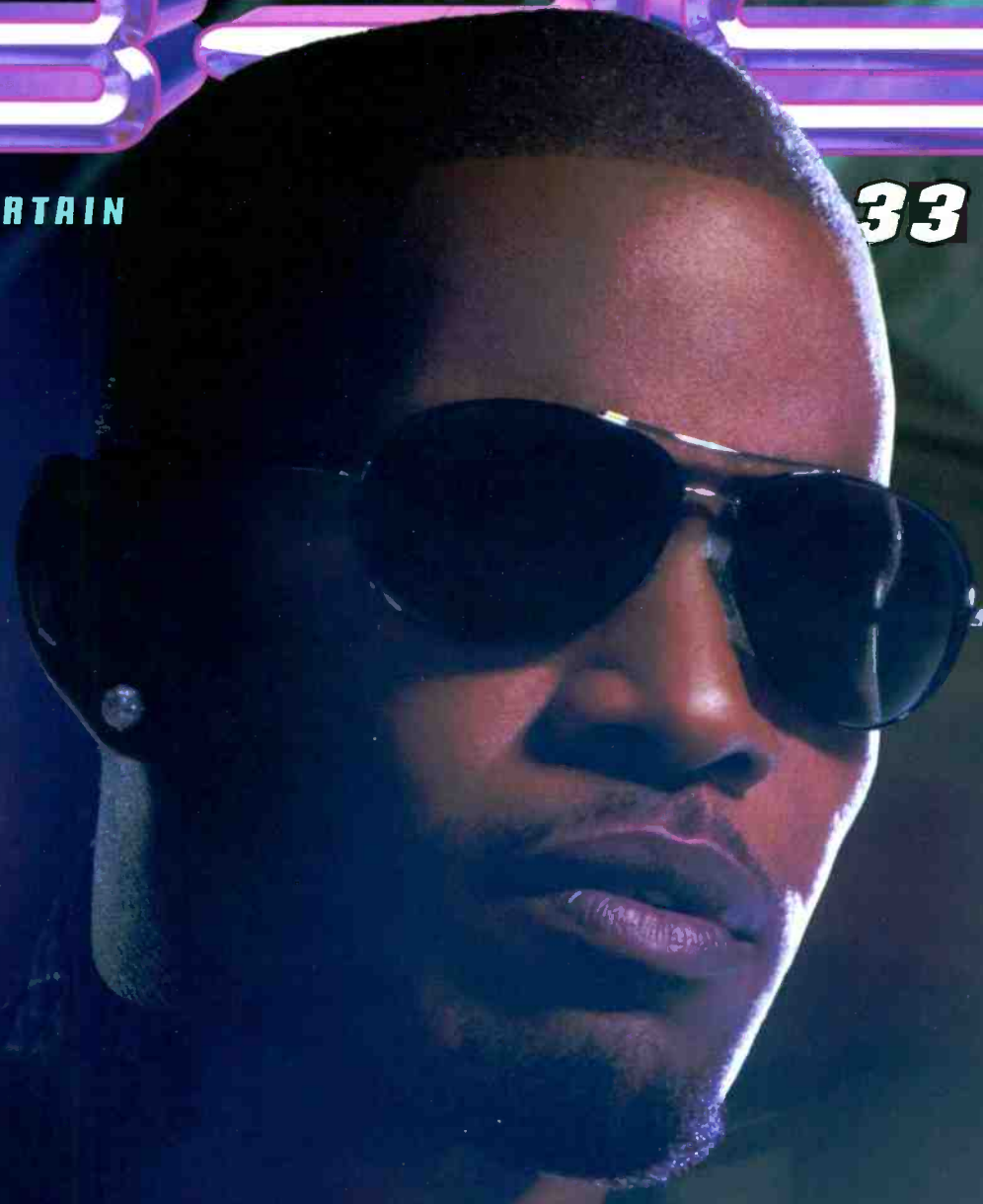


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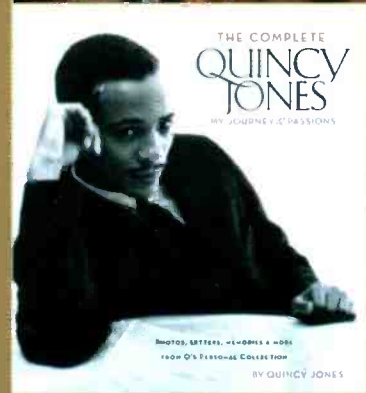
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## Getting Personal with Q

Legendary producer Quincy Jones, currently on his book tour promoting his latest memoir, "The Complete Quincy Jones: My Journey & Passions: Photos, Letters, Memories & More from Q's Personal Collection," was busy autographing books recently at the Santa Monica Barnes & Noble bookstore. Coming seven years after his bestselling autobiography "Q," this new 142-page tome features personal anecdotes and comments from Jones, a foreword from Clint Eastwood, afterword from S dney Poitier, introduction from Bono and preface from Maya Angelou. Produced by California-based Insight Editions, the book is an intimate tour of all things Q, with personal memorabilia that includes private family photos, his 1951 music school report card, his annotated vocal arrangement for "We Are The World," his autographed roster from the Presidential Delegation to the Inauguration of Nelson Mandela—even the address book he used to handwrite each accounting entry where he kept track of his payments to all the session musicians he worked with from Louis Jordan to Brook Benton. A veritable trove of treasures that will never be 'complete,' but certainly this book brings us a little closer to visualizing the genius of Jones. As usual, Q is involved in a dozen projects all happening simultaneously, including a new LP which will feature at least 60% of the hip-hop community, he confided at our 3am breakfast.



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# ARETHA

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# PUBLISHER'S NOTES



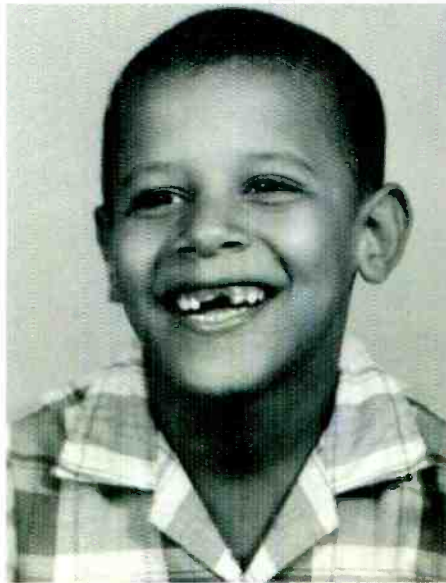
## YES THEY COULD—AND THEY DID!

As this historic and challenging year draws to a close, let the record show that the biggest winners of 2008 were President-Elect Barack Obama—and Lil Wayne. An unlikely pair to be sure. On the surface, they stand in stark contrast—the cool, elegant master of the political game who is poised to become the first African-American leader of the free world and the high-energy, dreadlocked master of the hip-hop game who topped the charts and Grammy nominations this year.

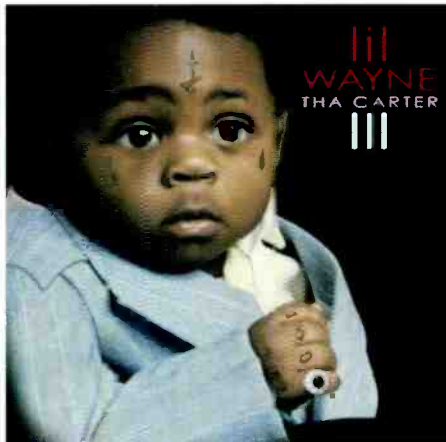
It's easy to identify those things that separate their lives and accomplishments, but let's examine the shared traits that contributed to their outstanding success. One common denominator is surely charisma—the ability to attract wide audiences to their message or music. But underlying it all is their tireless commitment to hard work and to doing whatever it takes to expand their bases and get it done.

Whether campaigning or releasing music, the candidate and the rapper were everywhere. They were nonstop forces of nature. Obama had an unprecedented 50-state election strategy and over the past year, Wayne released more music than anyone else—over one hundred songs and mixtapes, in addition to his 15-song album and guest appearances with other artists that included a genre-bending turn with Kid Rock at the Country Music Awards, a first for a rapper. The point is that both men put forth that extraordinary effort that separates winners from losers. And in the process, they proved beyond a doubt that those who work hardest ultimately prevail. Much like Obama gave hope to Americans about their political system with his “Yes we can!” slogan, Lil Wayne's success this year has given the music industry a beacon of hope that “Yes We Can!” still sell records.

While the world celebrated Barack Obama's barrier-breaking victory on November 4th, Lil Wayne scored his own breakthrough one month later on December 4th when it was announced that he led the field with eight Grammy nominations: LP of



Barack Obama as little boy



Lil Wayne as little boy

the Year, Best Rap Performance by a Duo or Group, Best Rap Solo, Best Rap Sung, Best Rap Song, Best Rap LP, and two nominations as a Featured Artist. While nominated previously, Wayne had never won one of the coveted trophies. Now he may well take home an armful. Yes we can!

Like Obama, himself a Grammy winner for two Spoken Word recordings, of his best-selling autobiographical books, “Dreams

from My Father” and “The Audacity of Hope,” Wayne knew what the American public wanted to hear and walked away as the top-selling recording artist of the year. With the tremendous success of *Tha Carter III*, fueled by the singles “A Milli” and “Lollipop,” he proved that recording artists could still move more than a million units during the first week of release. These numbers gave hope to a music industry facing economic decline just as Obama inspired the American people to hope for a better future in this hour of national crisis. Yes we can!

Wayne's performance has indeed been impressive, even for a rap prodigy who was already making his mark in hip-hop circles in his pre-teens while growing up in his native New Orleans. Like those hardy souls who survived the worst of Katrina, Wayne has proved that he has real staying power in this highly competitive industry and that this former Hot Boy is still red hot. And no one knows it better than Cash Money Records, where his career was launched, nurtured and continues to thrive with his recent re-signing to the label.

Cash Money CEO Ronald “Slim” Williams spoke to us about the label's pride in their artist's eight nominations: “We've worked with Lil Wayne since he was a teenager, signing him as part of the legendary hip-hop group the Hot Boys with Juvenile, B.G. and Turk. We have had the pleasure to see him grow and mature, both artistically and personally, into a multi-platinum superstar, but even more importantly, a loyal member of the Cash Money family, using our label as his base of operations. The success of “*Tha Carter III*” was the result of Wayne's tireless work ethic and incredible creative ability, and on behalf of his New Orleans hometown, my brother, Baby and I are honored to salute him as the artist with the most nominations at this year's Grammy Awards.”

BRE is proud to join Cash Money in saluting Lil Wayne, along with our President-Elect Barack Obama. In 2008, yes they could — and they did!

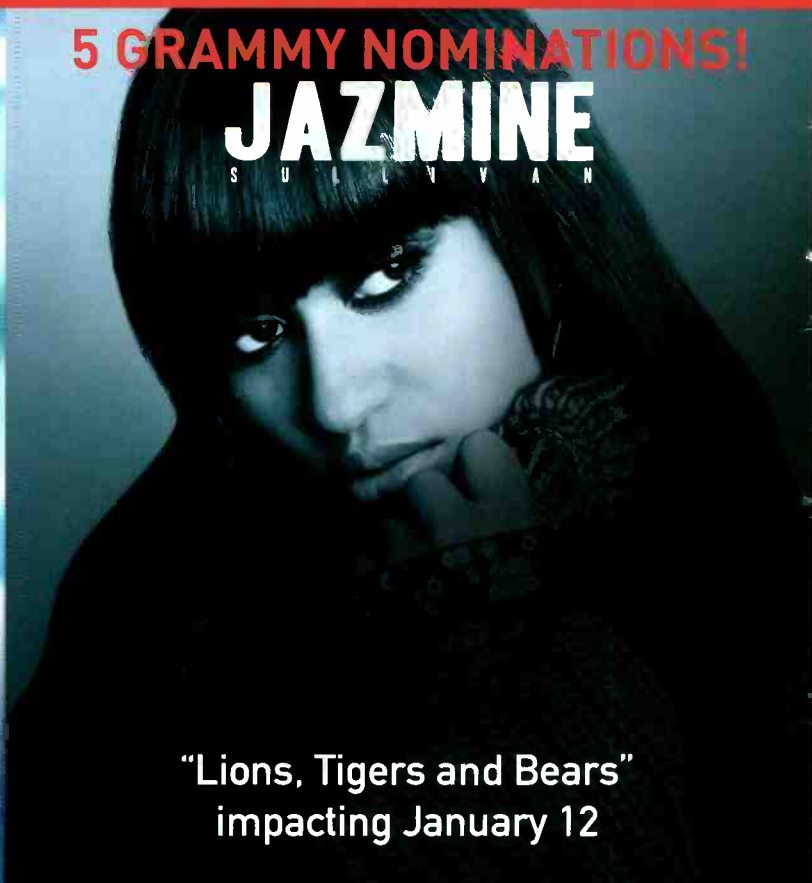
# THE BREAKTHROUGH ARTISTS OF THE YEAR

3 GRAMMY NOMINATIONS!  
LEONA LEWIS



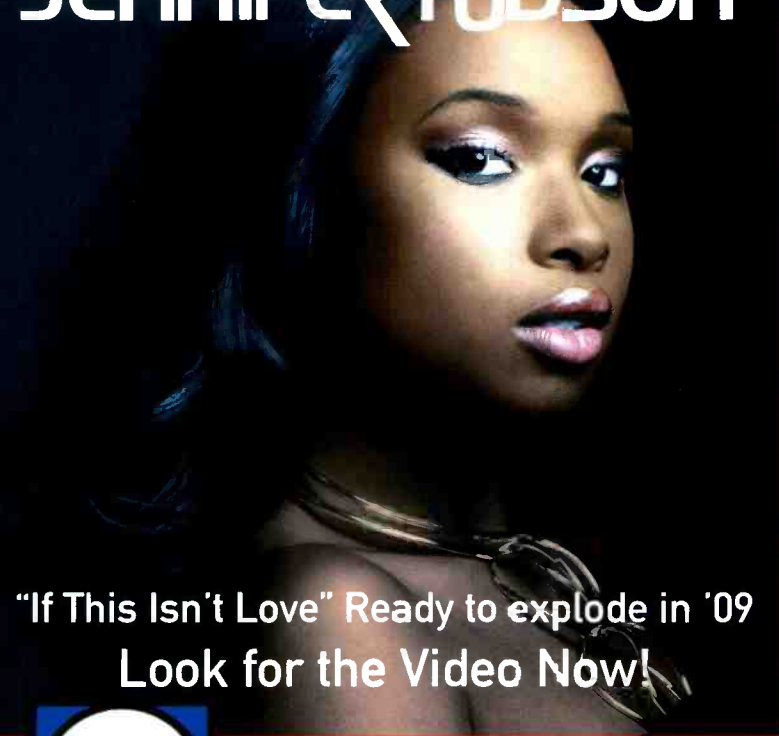
Winner of 2008 UK Mobo Award for Album and Video of the Year

5 GRAMMY NOMINATIONS!  
JAZMINE SULLIVAN



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4 GRAMMY NOMINATIONS!  
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# MUSIC NEWS SPECIAL

## 51st Annual Grammy Awards Nominations Take To The Air



L to r: Mariah, Joliday, Estelle, Lupe, Jazmine Sullivan, John Lee Hooker, CeCe Winans The Murrills

Artists nominated for the 51st Annual Grammy Awards reflect one of the organization's most diverse years, with the Album Of The Year category alone representing the rap, R&B, folk and rock genres. The musical output of Black acts is significantly represented in both the number of nominations and genres. Lil Wayne leads with eight nominations; Jay-Z, Ne-Yo and Kanye West each garnered six.

J Records had a banner year with its new artists. Former BRE Cover artist Jazmine Sullivan received five nominations and is up for the prestigious Best New Artist award and her labelmates actress/singer Jennifer Hudson received four nominations (including one for collaboration with labelmate Fantasia) and British sensation Leona Lewis claimed three with label stalwart Alicia Keys receiving three.

The Recording Academy was both about breaking history and making history. This year, for the first time, it announced its nominations for the annual Grammy Awards that will take place February 8th on primetime television on CBS in a show called "Grammy Nominations Concert Live!! Countdown To Music's Biggest Night." The one-hour special live broadcast from the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles featured past Grammy winners and nominees performing songs that are ensconced in the Grammy Hall of Fame in the new Grammy Museum. The Academy made history with the grand opening of the new museum the day following its live telecast.

Two-time Grammy winner LL Cool J and Grammy nominee Taylor Swift co-hosted the telecast, and presenters/performers included four-time Grammy winner Christina Aguilera, five-time Grammy winners Mariah Carey and Celine Dion, the six-time Grammy-winning Foo Fighters, 14-time Grammy winner B.B. King, and five-time Grammy winner John Mayer, among others.

Rapper Lil Wayne's eight nominations included *Tha Carter III* in the Album of the Year and Best Rap Album categories; Best Rap Song "Lollipop" and Best Rap/Sung Collaboration "Got Money" featuring T-Pain. Kanye West and Jay-Z each picked up six Grammy nominations. West, for Song of the Year for "American Boy" with Estelle; Best

Rap Performance By A Duo or Group for "Put On" with Young Jeezy; "Swagga Like Us" with Jay-Z, T.I., and Lil Wayne; Best Rap/Sung Collaboration for "American Boy" with Estelle, Best Rap Song for "Swagga Like Us" with Jay-Z, T.I., & Lil Wayne; and Album of the Year for *Tha Carter III* (featured artist).

Jay-Z also received nominations in the Best Rap Album category, for *American Gangster* and for Best Rap Song with "Swagga Like Us." Ne-Yo's *Year of the Gentleman* is up for Album of the Year.

Dangermouse, Atlanta's T.I. and Chicago's Lupe Fiasco followed closely with four nods each. Newcomers Estelle and FloRida claimed nods while Rihanna, T-Pain and Nas were returning nominees.

Other R&B Best Album of the Year nominees are: Eric Benet for *Love & Life*, Boyz II Men for *Motown: A Journey Through Hisville USA*, Al Green for *Lay It Down*, and Raphael Saadiq for *The Way I See It*.

Soul icon Al Green received nominations for Best R&B Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocals for "Stay With Me (By The Sea)" featuring John Legend, and Best Traditional R&B Vocal Performance for "You've Got The Love I Need" featuring Anthony Hamilton. *Lay It Down* was also nominated for Best Engineered Album, Non-Classical for the engineering work of Jimmy Douglass, Russell "The Dragon" Elevado, and Jon Smeltz.

Jordin Sparks picked up a nomination for Best Pop Collaboration with Vocals for "No Air," her duet with Chris Brown.

J. Holiday's "My Lac" earns a nomination for Best Contemporary R&B Album for his Capitol label, adding to his American Music Award and BET nominations.

Keyshia Cole's hit single "Heaven Sent" was nominated for Best R&B Vocal Performance and Best R&B Song.

Natalie Cole was nominated for Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album for her *Still Unforgettable*.

In the Gospel categories, CeCe Winans was nominated for Best Gospel Performance for "Waging War" and Best Pop/Contemporary Gospel Album for *Thy Kingdom Come*. Best Traditional Gospel Album nominations went to The Blind Boys of Alabama for *Down in New Orleans*;

The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir for *I'll Say Yes*; Dorinda Clark Cole for *Take It Back*; Deitrich Haddon for *Deitrich Haddon Presents... Together in Worship* with Voices of Unity; and Bishop Charles E. Blake Presents... *No Limus* with the West Angeles COGIC Mass Choir.

Kirk Franklin returns to the Grammy ring again for his Zomba Gospel album *The Fight of My Life*. And labelmate, Grammy-winning producer/songwriter Donald Lawrence saw his latest discovery, six-member sibling group The Murrills, receive both Grammy and Stellar nods for the Quiet Water/Zomba Gospel debut project, *Family Prayer*.

Another six-member group who has proven adept in any musical genre, Take 6, has a Grammy nod for Best Gospel Performance for "Shall We Gather At the River."

In the blues category, John Lee Hooker, Jr., the son to his legendary bluesman father, returned home from an overseas tour in Europe, Turkey and Russia in time to receive news of his second Grammy nomination for his third CD *All Odds Against Me*. Nominated for Best Traditional Blues Album, the album includes the animated video crossing over into hip hop, "Blues Ain't Nothin' But A Pimp."

*Cannon Re-Loaded: All-Star Celebration of Cannonball Adderley* is among the contenders for Best Contemporary Jazz Album while Best Jazz Vocal Album has Karrin Allyson, Stacey Kent, Kate McGarry, Cassandra Wilson and Norma Winstone vying for the win.

Danger Mouse and will.i.am are among the Producer of the Year nominees.

"The Grammy Awards process once again has yielded a comprehensive, diverse and eclectic group of excellent nominees across multiple genres," said Neil Portnow, President/CEO of The Recording Academy. "This year's nominations are truly reflective of the talented community of artists and creators who represent some of the highest levels of musical excellence."

The 51st Annual Grammy Awards will be held on Sunday, February 8, 2009, at Staples Center in Los Angeles and will be broadcast live in high definition TV and 5.1 surround sound on CBS from 8 to 11:30 pm (ET/PT).

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# MUSIC NEWS

## Dada's Charity Initiative Pays Off for Haiti

Dada Entertainment ([www.dada.net](http://www.dada.net)) CEO Massimiliano Pellegrini presented multiple Grammy-award winning musician, producer and Haitian Goodwill Ambassador Wyclef Jean with a check for \$20,000 for his Yele Haiti organization, which works with tens of thousands of children and adults in Haiti providing programs in education, health, the environment and community development. The donation came from a unique fundraising effort implemented by Dada: a weeklong charity drive in which a portion of each Dada.net subscription, which runs at \$9.99 per month, was contributed to Yele Haite to repair schools that were recently destroyed by hurricanes. Dada.net is a joint venture between two of the worldwide leaders in mobile and music industries, Dada USA, Inc. and Sony BMG Music Entertainment, offering both ringtones and DRM-free full-length MP3s for mobile and PC paid via mobile phones. Launched in 2007 as a seamless Web 2.0 experience around its catalogue of music and entertainment content, Dada currently offers all genres of music from Universal Music Group and Sony BMG and looks to announce additional content from both independent and major labels soon. —Photo by Larry Busacca, Wire Image



## Fans Pick Lil Wayne At Online Hip-Hop Awards

Lil Wayne topped the honorees at this year's Online Hip-Hop Awards. Fans voted the artist tops in four categories: Album of the Year Award (Hip-Hop), Artist of the Year Award (Hip-Hop), Off the Hook Award (Hip-Hop) and Collaboration of the Year, along with T.I., Jay-Z and Kanye West for "Swagga Like Us." Hosts "The Chappelle Show's" Donnell Rawlings and Sirius Radio Angela Yee presented winners in 30 categories online via a multi-media awards ceremony honoring the best and most innovative in Hip-Hop at <http://www.sohh.com/ohha/>

Soulja Boy was close behind, with three awards for King of the Net, the Digital Download of the Year Award (Hip-Hop), and Artist Website of the Year Award. Danity Kane emerged victorious with two awards for Artist of the Year Award (R&B) and Off the Hook Award (R&B).

## Marking Motown's 50th

Motown's 50th anniversary celebration kicked off December 9 and will spread over the next two years. *Motown: The Complete No. 1's*, a 10-disc set in a package designed to look like the company's original Hitsville U.S.A. headquarters in Detroit, is the debut of the campaign.

*NOW That's What I Call Motown*, the first edition of the hugely successful, multi-platinum *NOW That's What I Call Music!* series to celebrate the repertoire of a single label, arrives in stores on January 13. A joint venture between EMI Music North America, Sony Music Entertainment, and Universal Music Group, the series will feature 25 of Motown's greatest artists.

*Heart & Soul—Celebrating 50 Years of Motown* follows as an exclusive limited edition CD set that will be available at Hallmark Gold Crown stores beginning January 5 through February only. The compilation of classic love songs by some of Motown's greatest artists including Stevie Wonder, The Supremes and Marvin Gaye, among others, marks the first compilation album by Hallmark and will be marketed as the Hallmark Valentine CD.

Motown founder Berry Gordy, Jr., along with Benny Medina and former Motown VP Suzanne DePasse, who won a 1983 Emmy Award for the Motown 25th anniversary TV special, have a two-hour documentary about the company in the works for release next September. A Broadway musical is due to open in 2010. Universal Music Enterprises, which handles Motown's archival releases, has a slew of online podcasts and other special features and retrospective titles planned to roll out over the next two years.

And the Motown Historical Museum in



## Rihanna, Alicia, Chris Brown Lead People's Choice Nods

Rihanna, Alicia Keys and Chris Brown were among the multiple nominees at the 35th Annual People's Choice Awards. Rihanna is nominated for Favorite Female Singer, Favorite R&B Song ("Take A Bow") and Favorite Pop Song ("Disturbia"). Keys is also a nominee for Favorite Female Singer, along with Favorite R&B Song ("No One") and Favorite Song from a Soundtrack (her duet with Jack White on "Another Way To Die"). Brown is up for Favorite Male, with nominations for "With You" as Favorite R&B Song and two nods for "No Air," his collaboration with Jordin Sparks. The awards will be handed out on CBS on January 7.

## Al Bell Gets Up Close and Personal Presents American Soul Music

Former Stax Records owner and Motown president Al Bell has launched a new company, Al Bell Presents, LLC, offering a full-service website ([www.AJBellPresents.com](http://www.AJBellPresents.com)) as well as the first of several Internet music channels. Built by Charleston, South Carolina-based American Media Services-Interactive, the two entities are intended to provide services to the entertainment industry.

Describing the website as an interactive Internet portal designed to "entertain, engage, excite, inform and educate," Bell draws from a vast wealth of experience in the industry on all sides of the spectrum.

The first online music channel, "Al Bell Presents American Soul Music," benefits from that same wealth of knowledge. Not only will it include his hand-picked musical selections and programming from more than 2,000 classic tracks from Stax, Motown, PIR and other labels covering soul, R&B, blues, gospel, jazz, neo hip hop, neo rap and neo soul, it will also include personal observations about the artists, the emotions, the history and the heritage from someone who was there.



Al Bell

Detroit has a series of special events for 2009, including an "In Their Own Words" series with Motown alumni that will kick off January 12. And a Marvin Gaye exhibit opens in April.

## Loud Co-Founder Isaacson Launches Full Service Model

Loud Records co-founder Rich Isaacson has launched Rich Isaacson Entertainment (RI Entertainment) offering artists a full-service team of professionals versed in all aspects of the music business from artist management to record labels, music publishing to Internet campaigns, to whatever it takes to become a success.

"We are in a time where we see the record industry struggling to adjust to new market realities and where creative ways of doing business and the ability to move quickly are more valuable than ever," explains Isaacson. "RI Entertainment will effectively help build and brand artists and companies in this changing landscape."

No stranger to business development, Isaacson, along with his childhood friend Steve Rifkind, built Loud into a multi-million dollar company launching the careers of such artists as Wu-Tang Clan, Mobb Deep, Big Pun, Xzibit, Funk master Flex and Three6 Mafia. As president of both Loud and its sister marketing arm SRC, Isaacson expanded artist brands into film and corporate advertising.

Currently running the day-to-day operations of SRC, reuniting with Rifkind in the Universal joint venture whose roster includes Akon, David Banner, Shontelle, Asher Roth, Melanie Fiona, American Yard and Tami Chynn, Isaacson also manages a stable of international clients not limited to any musical genre.

Says Rifkind of the new venture, "We grew up together and if there is one person that I can turn to anytime or anywhere, it's Rich. I know he would be there for me and visa versa. I respect his business sensibilities and go to him for guidance on every major decision I have to make."

## Plies Scores Another Gold



*Definition of Real*, the blockbuster second album from Big Gates/Slip-N-Slide/Atlantic artist Plies, has been certified gold by the RIAA for sales in excess of 500,000. The album's #1 single, "Bust It Baby Part 2 (featuring Ne-Yo)," with sales of 214,000, was the highest selling first-week numbers in the

history of the Miami-based Slip-N-Slide Records. On December 16 at his album party in Tampa, Florida, Plies releases his next album, *Da REAList*, the Florida-based rapper's third full-length release in just under 16 months.

The first single from the new LP, "Put It On Ya," featuring Big Gates artist Chris J, is already impacting at both urban and rhythmic formats. In a second cut,

"Pants Hang Low," produced by Mannie Fresh, Plies tackles the social issue of sagging pants on today's young men, launching a blog site, www.

pantshanglow.com, to address the issue. His popular YouTube channel, "Heard Of Me" is streaming now at [www.youtube.com/user/PliesWorld](http://www.youtube.com/user/PliesWorld), and he recently unveiled his own non-profit organization, Big Gates and Plies Power OfVisions Foundation, Inc., as well as a scholarship program, the "Somebody Loves You" Scholarship Fund.

## Miles Davis *Kind of Blue* Celebrates 50th

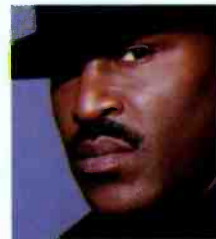
Miles Davis Properties, LLC and Columbia/Legacy recently celebrated the R.I.A.A. certification four-time platinum of Miles Davis' jazz album *Kind of Blue* and the release of the 50th Anniversary Collector's Edition. Key Davis alumni Jimmy Cobb, Lenny White, Wallace Roney and producer George Avakian among others attended the NYC reception where a special tribute was paid to legendary drummer Jimmy Cobb, the last surviving member from the album's sessions. He was presented with a custom-made snare drum by Innovation Drum commemorating the 50th Anniversary of *Kind of Blue*. The album is the #1 best-selling jazz album of all-time and is ranked #11 on *Rolling Stone's* 500 Greatest Albums of All Time.



(l-r) Vince Wilburn, Jr.; Erin Davis; Nell Mulderry, Product Director, *Kind of Blue* 50th Anniversary Collector's Edition; Jimmy Cobb; Steve Berkowitz, SVP of A&R Legacy Recordings; Cheryl Davis and Adam Block, SVP, General Manager Legacy Recordings.--Photo by Daniel Root

## Easy Mo Bee Takes It Digital

Brooklyn native and Grammy-winning hip-hop icon Easy Mo Bee has produced first singles and albums since the early 1990s when he was Bad Boy Records' main staff producer. What came out of that association was his heavy involvement in The Notorious B.I.G.'s acclaimed debut album *Ready to Die* and Biggie's first single, "Party and Bullshit." He later produced both Biggie and Tupac Shakur, being one of the few producers to work with both artists. He also produced the lion's share of *Words from the Genius*, the debut album of the GZA, later part of Wu-Tang Clan. Easy is still finding, nurturing and launching new talent through his latest three associations with Honeycomb Entertainment, Platinum Ice Records and his own Easy Mo Records. All songs are in digital format and available on iTunes. Under the Honeycomb banner he's producing a new rapper from Brooklyn, Honey, who was in an all girl's rap group. On his own Easy Mo Records he's producing *Is Personal*, a first album for California girl rapper Noelle.



## IN MEMORIAM

### Miriam Makeba (1932-2008)

South African music legend Miriam Makeba died the way she had lived – singing. Makeba died of a heart attack after finishing a concert in the town of Caserta in Southern Italy on November 10, 2008. She was 76. Known as "Mama Afrika," Makeba spent more than 30 years in exile from her native country after supporting the anti-apartheid movement. Nelson Mandela spoke out about her death, saying, it "has saddened us and our nation. At the same time, her music inspired a powerful sense of hope in all of us. She was South Africa's first lady of song and so richly deserved the title of Mama Afrika. She was a mother to our struggle and to the young nation of ours." A pioneer of world music, Makeba kept true to her roots while engaging a world sound. One of her most popular songs was "Pata Pata" from her 2004 *Heads Up* album *Reflections Related An Appraisal: Taking Africa with Her to the World*.

### MC Breed (1971-2008)

Atlanta/Flint, Michigan-based rapper MC Breed (Eric Breed) 37, passed away in Ypsilanti, Michigan from kidney failure on November 22. Born and raised in Flint, Breed brought attention to the rap scene in the Midwest with such successes as "Ain't No Future in Yo Frontin'." Later moving to Atlanta where he signed with Ichiban Records, Breed made his house the spot for up and coming producers and artists. He collaborated with a number of artists, including Too Short, Tupac Shabur, Ice Cube and Dr. Dre, among others. At his death he was in the midst of finishing a new album and DVD about his career.

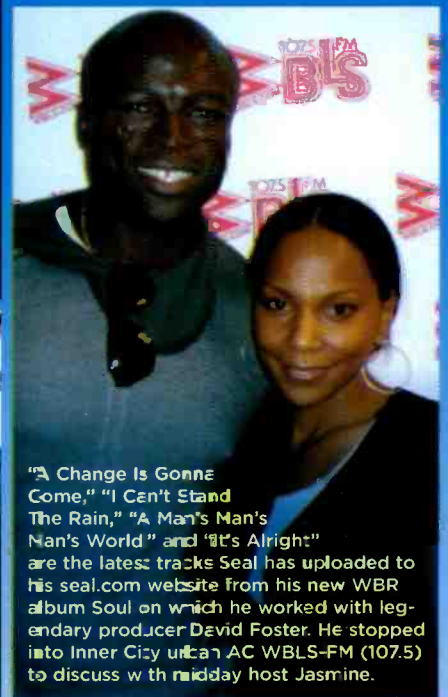
# BIG SHOTS RADIO'S TALKIN' TO...



Good Music/Columbia Recording artist John Legend recently stopped by Radio One Philadelphia's urban WPHI-FM (100.3 the Beat) to discuss his new album, *Evolver*, with afternoon drive host Poochman.



Ho, Ho, Ho! George Wilborn from the #1 rated Michael Baisden Show on Cox urban AC WCFB-FM (STAR 94.5) stops by its Orlando studios to share some holiday cheer with listeners and staff at one of their popular "Eat, Meet & Greet" events. (L-R) Comedian George Wilborn and WCFE midday talent JoJo.



"A Change Is Gonna Come," "I Can't Stand the Rain," "A Man's Man's Man's World" and "It's Alright" are the latest tracks Seal has uploaded to his seal.com website from his new WBR album Soul on which he worked with legendary producer David Foster. He stopped into Inner City urban AC WBLS-FM (107.5) to discuss with midday host Jasmine.



Usher wrapped up his Ladies Only Tour in Dallas with a sold out show at the House of Blues. He stopped by Se-vice Broadcasting urban KKDA-FM (K104) to strike some attitude with PD/morning host Skip Cheatham and Da Playground. (L-r) Sam Putney, Skip C, Usher, Lady Jade and Chris Arnold



PD of Magic 103.9 Yolonda Neely and Common



E93 staff (L-r): Crystal St. John, MD Kenya Cabine, Common, DJ Mike Fresh, DJ Flux and Promotions Director Gil Jones



PD Lil' G and Common

## MUSIC SPOTLIGHT

# JON B:

## Helpless Romantic

By Carol Ozemhoya



**H**is first single, "Someone To Love," was not only a hit, it introduced this Pied Piper of passion. That was 1995, and once again, 13 years later, Jon B is climbing the charts with a love song. Claiming himself to be a 'helpless romantic,' the title of his first studio album in four years, Jon B. says since 2004, he's been re-energized by a true romance (marriage) and the blessings of a little one.

"I never stopped the writing process," he explains of his four-year hiatus. "It's part of my everyday life. I write something everyday. I have to do it now in between being a regular man and the family life I am experiencing right now... it's all part of a natural progression. It's great to be able to share this journey with the rest of the world. That last album was a searching record and this record reflects finding what I was looking for."

The new album's debut single, "Ooh So Sexy," is a mellifluous move into the heart of a woman. But it's more than a chick song; it's man's chance to let his lady know what turns him on in a mid-tempo maze that's certainly scintillating. Ask urban AC nationwide... the track quickly moved into the Top 20.

Jon B used the time off since his last CD to develop the business side of his music career, launching his own label, Vibezelect Music. He also moved into some key partnerships, one with Arsenal Records, distributed by Fontana/Universal Music Group, under the helm of industry vet Max Gousse.

Another was his union with Barry Diller's Rushmoredrive.com, the groundbreaking urban search engine that involves multi-platform marketing such as live online listening parties.

Crediting his wife for inspiration on many of the track, Jon B. tells BRE: "My wife inspires me with the way she writes beautiful words. The album relates to my family and my new life and how we are in love and how it's all working out and how we are being blessed in such beautiful ways."

"When you fall in love, it is a feeling that nothing else matters... it's like when I wake up and look into my daughter's eyes, it makes me a whole new and better person," explains the 'helpless romantic.'

# RAHSAAN PATTERSON:

## Inspired by the World Around Him

By Lydia Proenza

"I'm inspired by any great form of art--a film, a painting, poetry, any profound statement I read or hear, laughter and good conversations with my friends that remind me of happy memories and sometimes sad memories too," says singer/songwriter Rahsaan Patterson when asked to describe what inspires him to write songs. Inspired also by music legends like Miles Davis, Stevie Wonder, Paul McCartney and Prince, Patterson says, "Their music not only inspires me, but has taught me a lot."

Patterson is currently working in the studio finishing his next album called *Bluephoria*, a "happy album" inspired by the color blue, which represents the sky and the ocean, and the state of euphoria or the ultimate bliss. *Bluephoria*, releasing in 2009, follows his critically acclaimed *Wines & Spirits* (2007), which featured the hit singles "Feels Good" and "Stop Breaking My Heart."

And he has his first holiday album: *The Ultimate Gift* on Artistry Music, personal stories of Christmas in songs like "Peace and Joy" and "Christmas At My House" co-written with Van Hunt.

While people may remember that Rahsaan started out as a 10-year-old actor playing "The Kid" on the popular 1980 television series, "Kids Incorporated," with Fergie, Mario Lopez and Shanice, he's always had music in his blood. "By the time I was 12, I knew I



wanted a career in music. It was always the driving force for me and I was looking for new ways to express myself artistically," explains Rahsaan, who is named after the legendary jazz sax player Rahsaan Roland Kirk. "I started singing in the choir at the Bethel Holy Church of Deliverance in Harlem when I was four or five years old," he remembers. His grandfather was a pastor at the church and his aunt is a pastor there now. His father was also a pastor at that church before the family moved to California in the '80s. And when Rahsaan visits his family in New York, he still attends this church.

Patterson started his music career writing songs for others. The first song he wrote was Brandy's triple-platinum single, "Baby" in 1994. He's also penned songs for the likes of Tevin Campbell, Chico DeBarge, Christopher Williams and Jody Watley.

Focusing more on his own albums now, he looks for *Bluephoria* to be his biggest hit to date.

# HOLIDAY CHEER

## Aretha Celebrates Christmas with Troops

The legendary "Queen of Soul," Aretha Franklin, performed from her first-ever Christmas album, *This Christmas Aretha*, at The Torch for Freedom: A Holiday Tribute for our Troops. The event was a fundraiser for the Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Coast Guard and Airmen Club, held at the Noziz Theatre in Times Square in New York City. The event was presented by tourism/entertainment online outlet NewYork.com. A large group of military personnel attended the event. The 90-year-old military club is a non-profit organization that serves as a home away from home to active duty military personnel, veterans, and their families.

## Tribute to Bad Santa

Koch has released *A Tribute to Bad Santa*, a new holiday album featuring Juelz Santana, Jim Jones and comedian Mike Epps that includes 15 tracks and comedic skits.

## Snoop Dogg's Holiday Cheer

Snoop Dogg is spreading his own brand of holiday cheer with a new Christmas album, *Snoop Dogg Presents Christmas In Tha Dogg House*, including exclusive holiday songs from the rapper, as well as Trae Dogg Pound, Soopafly, Bad Lucc, Damani, J. Black and The Hustle Boyz.

## Holidays at TV One

TV One kicked off the Holiday Season on December 8 with an all-new Christmas music hour, "The Living It Up with Patti LaBelle Holiday Special." Patti opens her home for a holiday celebration as she sings some Christmas classics along with some of her famous friends, including Kindred the Family Soul, Donnie McClurkin, Deborah Cox, and a reunion of her old girl group Labelle, featuring Nona Hendryx and Sarah Dash.

"Living Single" star Kim Fields is keeping the stress level low and the entertainment flowing each night through Christmas Eve, with visits from her real family and celebrity friends, including Brian McKnight, Kim Coles, Telma Hopkins and Valerie Pettiford from "Half & Half," who join the TV One schedule December 26. Kim and her family and friends will be hosting a daily prime-time mix of holiday series, movies, and specials leading up to Christmas Day.

## Bunny Sigler's 'O Holy Night'

Walter "Bunny" Sigler, hit songwriter of Instant Funk's "I've Got My Mind Made Up," Patti Labelle's "Somebody Loves You Baby" and The O'Jays' "Love Train," offers

two holiday songs: "Christmas Dream" and "O Holy Night." Says Sigler "I've been singing 'O Holy Night' all my life. I knew that if I ever planned to record a Christmas song, it would be 'O Holy Night.'"

## Ray Charles' Revives the 'Spirit'



(l-r) Norman Lear, Co-owner Concord Music Group; Val Ervin, President of the Ray Charles Foundation; and John Burk, Sr. Vice President A&R Concord Music Group kick off the Ray Charles reissue initiative

Concord Music Group and the Ray Charles Foundation entered into an agreement to re-issue music from Ray Charles' post-1960 catalog. Kicking off the project is the digital-only release of Charles' *The Spirit of Christmas*, which was released originally in 1985 on Columbia Records, featuring such holiday standards as "What Child Is This," "The Little Drummer Boy," "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town" and bonus track "Baby It's Cold Outside," a duet with Betty Carter recorded in 1961.

Other titles will continue throughout the year, including a retrospective volume in March of 21 of his chart-topping hits and the Starbucks Opus Anthology. Says Jon Burk, Concord Music Group executive VP of A&R, "Ray Charles is one of America's most iconic and treasured voices. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to once again present Ray's music with the reverence and respect it deserves and continue our dynamic partnership with Val Ervin and everyone at the Ray Charles Foundation."

## T.I., Ludacris Ring In New Year

NBC's "New Year's Eve with Carson Daly" welcomes the New Year live from Rockefeller Center with two of music's hottest rappers in T.I. and Ludacris.

## 'Christmas...Who Needs It'

EMI Gospel and Fred Hammond have partnered on the first DVD of Hammond's stageplay produced by Hammond Family Entertainment entitled "Christmas...Who Needs It." "This is a faith-based 'dramedy' that will surely put us all in the Christmas spirit," says Hammond, who produced and stars in the movie. "The inspiration for

this play was based on the early Tyler Perry plays and I just took the idea and kicked it up a notch by shooting it in Panasonic HD with Redrock Panavision. The timing is divine and it will hopefully enable people to find some joy during these difficult times in which we presently find ourselves as a nation."

"This movie is uplifting and as a Christian, this is the type of movie I have wanted in the marketplace for years," says Roy Campbell, Hammond's business partner and Hammond Family Entertainment Board Chairman.

## Jones-Moffett Headlines Bishop Jakes' Holiday CD

Sheri Jones-Moffett, best known for such Top Ten gospel hits as "Come Ye Disconsolate" and "Celebrate" with vocal partner Ted Winn, is enjoying a nice side career as a solo artist. As de from leading Donald Lawrence & the Tri-City Singers' 2007 #1 gospel hit "Encourage Yourself," she recently gave birth to a son, Jamal. Jones-Moffett adds her lush vocals to the jazzy title song of Bishop T.D. Jakes' new holiday CD, *The Gift Remains*, which includes an intro by Bishop Jakes.

## Imani Winds 'This Christmas'

Add some rhythm to your holidays with the first-ever holiday collection by Grammy-nominated wind ensemble Imani Winds. Exploring the links between European, African and American musical traditions remain at the heart of the group's mission. *This Christmas* is a collection of 13 rhythmified Yuletide favorites with the savvy, spirit and elegance that defines the group. Rather than a sit-by-the-fire holiday CD, the Imani's have assembled a toe-tapping Christmas album, with an all-star rhythm section to add to their swinging collection. Real treats are the arrangements by members Valerie Coleman and Jeff Scott: "Let It Snow," "This Christmas," and a gospel-tinged "Go Tell It on the Mountain."

## Kenny G Smooth Jazz Christmas

Broadcast Architecture's Smooth Jazz Network is offering barter-free on a market-exclusive basis a full 48-Hours of seasonal music hosted by multi-platinum selling saxophonist Kenny G, who is also the network's midday weekend host. Called "A Kenny G Christmas," the program is produced in flexible segments to adapt to any special programming needs to air around the clock on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

# INOTHERMEDIA

## Timbaland Tackles Film With First Feature 'Vinyl'

Timbaland, the top producer of the past decade whose touch can be heard on almost every hit single heard on the airwaves in the last two years, is moving boldly into his own film projects. His Mosley



Media Group (MMG) has teamed with two-time Sundance prizewinner Effie T. Brown and her Duly Noted, Inc. arm to produce his first feature film. Called "Vinyl," the storyline doesn't stray far from the music business as it revolves around the lives of five young women who face life-altering

decisions about their relationships with members of a rock band. Shooting begins this spring with writer/director Richard Zelniker. Brown is joined by MMG's co-presidents Monique Idlett-Mosley and Marcus Spence as producers. Having contributed to more than 50 film and TV projects, Timbaland is no stranger to film, but this marks his first entry as executive producer of his own feature film. Relying on his successful tie-ins to mobile devices, he plans a unique marketing campaign with behind-the-scenes content.

## Codeblack Partners with Ebony/Jet Expanding Brand

In a further aggressive expansion of its brand, Ebony/Jet announced the partnership with new media and entertainment company Codeblack Enterprises to create, develop, produce, market and distribute both existing and future innovative Codeblack properties.

First priority, following the January 20 inaugural with a February 3rd release, is "Barack Obama: The Man and His Journey," a full-length DVD documentary narrated by Blair Underwood.

Codeblack Entertainment's "Barack Obama: The Man and His Journey" is a full-length DVD documentary about the President Elect's historic journey to the White House. "Yes We Can" is an original song composed and performed by 16-time Grammy nominated recording artist Brian McKnight. The song was inspired by President Elect Obama's historic victory, and will be available exclusively as a bonus track in limited quantity "Barack Obama: The Man and His Journey" (being released January 20th to coincide with the 2008 Presidential Inauguration. Featuring interviews and insights from a cross-section of personalities that include Martin Luther King III, George Lopez, Hill Harper, Tom Joyner, Roland Martin and Robert Kiyosaki, "Journey" also features a previously unreleased original song, "Yes We Can," composed and



performed by multi-talented Grammy nominee Brian McKnight.

A second project, "Why We Laugh," takes an introspective look at black comedy through the eyes of such personalities as Bill Cosby, Chris Rock, Kweisi Mfume, Keenan Ivory Wayans, D.L. Hughley and Michael Eric Dyson. Another six titles are on tap for release in 2009 via broadcast/VOD, DVD, Internet, digital, movie and future digital media.

"This extraordinary partnership clearly demonstrates how two strong brands will meet increasing consumer demand in the ever-changing digital landscape for ongoing growth opportunities within the African-American community and beyond," said Linda Johnson Rice, chairman and CEO of Johnson Publishing Company, Inc., the parent company of Ebony/Jet Entertainment Group, LLC.

Adds Jeff Clanagan, Chairman & CEO of Codeblack Enterprises: "Our focus and drive since Codeblack's inception, which includes our commitment to the positive representation of African Americans in film, has enabled us to become the preeminent global distributor of urban-themed titles. There is an enormous demand for African-American content, which we've illustrated with our proven track record of releasing coveted, qualitative projects through theatrical, DVD, digital and broadcast channels. The Ebony and Jet brands, ubiquitous for dedication to African-American ideals, enables us to build on what we've accomplished, and set a course that will change the urban film landscape for decades to come."

## Golden Globe Nods Tap Beyoncé and P Diddy

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association has selected Beyoncé Knowles as a Golden Globe nominee for co-writing the song, "Once in a Lifetime" from "Cadillac Records," along with Amanda Ghost, Scott McFarron, Ian Dench, James Dring and Jody Street. And the Bad Boy Worldwide/Storyline Entertainment/Sony Pictures adaptation of the classic drama "A Raisin in the Sun," starring Phylicia Rashad, Sean "Diddy" Combs, Audra McDonald, Sean Patrick Thomas and Sanaa Lathan received a nod for Best Mini-Series or Motion Picture Made for Television. The Emmys had previously nominated both Rashad for Outstanding Lead Actress and the film, which aired on ABC in February for Best Motion Picture Made for Television.

## Radio's Angie Martinez Goes One-on-One On Her Own BET Special

Angie Martinez, "The Voice of New York," is jumping from radio to television with her BET television special, "The Angie Martinez Show." The Brooklyn native controlling the air waves in the Big Apple with her daily radio show on Emmis Top 40/Rhythmic WQHT-FM (Hot 97) is going nationwide with her one-on-one with some of today's biggest stars like Jay-Z, LL Cool J and Marc Anthony. "It is casual," Angie says. "It's not a big production, it's not a lot of bells and whistles - it's just like, interesting talk with interesting people, that's what we kept saying. It's that kind of vibe. It's very comfortable and easy. I like shows like that." The Angie Martinez Show" airs Mondays at 11:30 p.m. EST on BET.

## Raising the Praise

BET's ninth annual mega-hit "Celebration of Gospel," taped December 10th at the Orpheum Theater in Los Angeles, will air on Sunday, January 25th at 8 PM. Comedian/radio personality Steve Harvey hosts again with special guests like Louis Gossett Jr. and LL Cool J joining Gospel superstars Kirk Franklin, Mary Mary, Donnie McClurkin, Vickie Winans, Smokie Norful, Heather Headley, Trin-I-Tee 5:7, Hezekiah Walker and LFC, Pastor Shirley Caesar, Dr. Bobby



# My Organic Soul

from PLATO to CREFLO, EMERSON to MLK, Jesus to JAY-Z

BY JACQUELINE RHINEHART

With an insightful foreword by rapper and musical anthropologist, Chuck D of Public Enemy fame, *My Organic Soul From Plato to Creflo, Emerson to MLK, Jesus to Jay-Z, A Journal to Help You Discover Yourself Through Words of Wisdom from Visionaries Past & Present*, is a book that juxtaposes the lyrics of hip-hop and soul music icons with those of classical western and multicultural philosophers to expose and highlight shared truths. An engrossing read and daily meditation for all generations and persuasions.

For more information, visit [www.myorganicsoulbook.com](http://www.myorganicsoulbook.com).  
Now on sale. Available wherever books are sold.

*Ms. Jackie Rhinehart's My Organic Soul shows the constructive beauty of the wit, charm, nerve, and power of today, yesterday, and tomorrow's millennial urban mindscape, albeit slowing down the verbal shrapnel that's often lost in much of today's speedy deliverance.*

—Chuck D of Public Enemy

*With insight, humor and a shot of attitude, this provocative journal offers up the audacious and succinct boldness of hip-hop lyrics and the sage musings of philosophers, helping to spur in readers their own introspection about the finer points of living.*

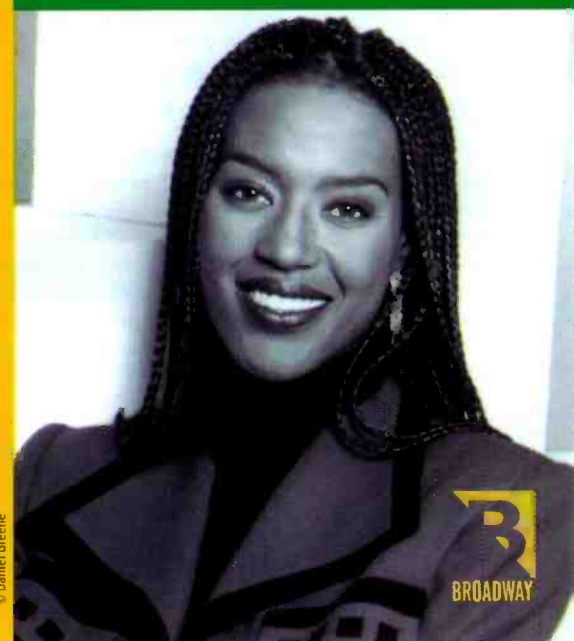
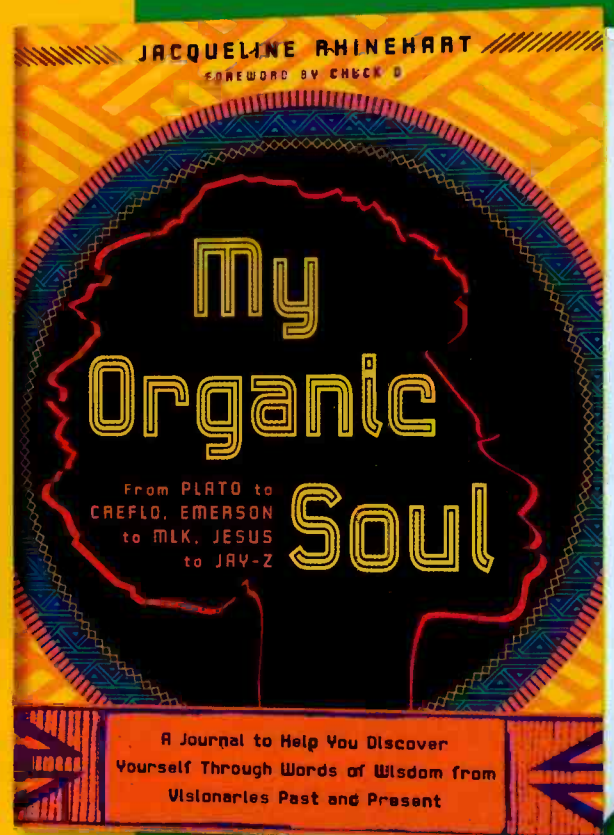
—Johnnie L. Roberts, *Newsweek*

*My Organic Soul is a brilliant and loving gift book of self-discovery and empowerment, no matter race, color, or creed. With music as her foundation, author Jacqueline Rhinehart has put together quotes from the likes of Plato and Dr. King; Jesus and Jay-Z; C.S. Lewis and Dave Chappelle. And from that cutting and scratching and remixing of historical and present-day words of inspiration come practical solutions for all of us to make it through life, one drumbeat at a time."*

—Kevin Powell, activist and author of  
*No Sleep Till Brooklyn* and *Whos Gonna Take Weight?*

*My Organic Soul is a rich tapestry of wisdom from the words of grand sages of the past and present. Since all of us must wrestle with the question 'Who am I?' this deep book is a needed companion for everyone. So don't miss it!*

—Dr. Cornel West, Princeton University



Jones, Kurt Carr and The Kurt Carr Singers. BET President of Music Programming & Specials, Stephen Hill, produces the show.

## Bishop T.D. Jakes Expands Ministry Film Opens January 9

Prominent pastor, motivational speaker and best-selling author Bishop T.D. Jakes sees one of his books, "Not Easily Broken," realizes on the big screen with the January 9th release of the Sony Pictures film starring Morris Chestnut, Taraji P. Henson, Maeve Quinlan, Kevin Hart, Wood Harris and Jenifer Lewis. The uplifting drama about love and family is produced by Bill Duke from a screenplay by Brian Bird and is produced by Jakes, Curtis Wallace, Morris Chestnut and Steven Brown. With the tagline, "Life tries to break you; love holds you together," the film expands Jakes' ministry even further. And word is that he is also in development talks with Dr. Phil McGraw's Stage 29 Productions for a daytime talk show to debut in 2009. He already does a weekly program on Trinity Broadcasting.

## She's on a Different Stage

Prominent Houston attorney, Jalene Mack, is making her big screen debut in the upcoming feature, "Hurricane Season" scheduled for release in 2009. Starring Forest Whitaker, Isaiah Washington, Taraji P. Henson, Bow Wow, Courtney B. Vance and Lil' Wayne, "Hurricane Season" is a true life drama filmed in Mack's original hometown of New Orleans. The movie is based on the story of Al Collins, basketball coach for John Ehret High School in Marrero, Louisiana, who led his Patriots to the state championship a year after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the school and displaced many of its students. Mack is cast in the role of Andrea Wall, mother of Christian (played by Eric D. Hill Jr.) one of the principal basketball players. The busy attorney turned actress is currently back in Houston for martial arts training for her next film, "Elbows & Vogues," starring Reagan Gomez and Gary Sturgis.



(l-r): Forest Whitaker and attorney-turned-actress Jalene Mack.

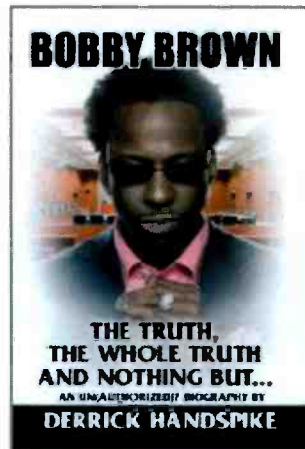
## Wu-Tang Clan and RZA Unveil 2009 Plans

The Wu-Tang Clan's main strategist and creative overseer, the RZA, will kick off 2009 with three high-profile film and music projects. On January 27, the Abbot will release *Afro Samurai: The Resurrection*. The LP serves as the soundtrack to the second season of the critically acclaimed animated series "Afro Samurai." Voiced by Academy Award-nominee Samuel L. Jackson, the series debuted in 2006 on Spike TV and went on to become the best-selling animated DVD release of 2007. The original, well-received soundtrack featured guest spots from Q-Tip, Big Daddy Kane, and Talib Kweli. The project will mark the RZA's second full-length album for the series. In Summer 2009, the RZA's talents moves to the big screen with a role in "The Funny People," an upcoming comedy from writer/director Judd Apatow ("The 40-Year Old Virgin," "Knocked Up"). The film revolves around the story of a famous comedian coping with a near-death experience. "The Funny People" also stars Adam Sandler, Seth Rogen, and Leslie Mann.

## Bobby Brown's Truth

It's finally out! The 'un(authorized)' biography of Bobby Brown—"Bobby Brown: The Truth, The Whole Truth And Nothing But..." impacted bookstores this month from Down South Books ([www.downtownbooks.com](http://www.downtownbooks.com)). Authored by Derrick Handspike (who stepped up his involvement in the book when Brown stepped away from it), the 234-page book provides such insights as these chronicled in his chapter headings: "The Bad Boy of Boston;" his beginning with New Edition "From Orchard Park to Japan;" his prerogative "I Made This Money, You Didn't;" "A Magnet for Bad Luck: The Rise and Fall;" "Impacting the World;" intimate revelations with Whitney "Living As A Power Couple;" "Losing My Identity;" the pain of young love described in relationship with Janet Jackson' "All About Family;" "My Perception" as the reigning king; the problems of "Being Bobby Brown;" his wake-up call in "Coming To His Senses;" and "Facing the Man in the Mirror." The book reveals a roller coaster of emotions as Brown navigates his fame and celebrity status with New Edition, Whitney and solo. In closing, he seems at peace with himself.

At a chance meeting at the Sherman Oaks Galleria coming out from the Arclight movies, Bobby, with kids and his lady Alicia Etheridge in tow, did seem to have reached an understanding about himself. As his book states, his life has certainly been his prerogative: "...if I had a chance to live my life all over again, I wouldn't change a thing."



## New "Deal" for MeMphHitz and DJ Kutz

"The Deal," a new BET show featuring the hottest artists, videos and styles in hip-hop, focuses on the next generation of hip-hop culture and provides an exclusive look at the game-changers in music, getting real about the issues affecting the hip-hop community and spotlighting what's hot right



Memphitz



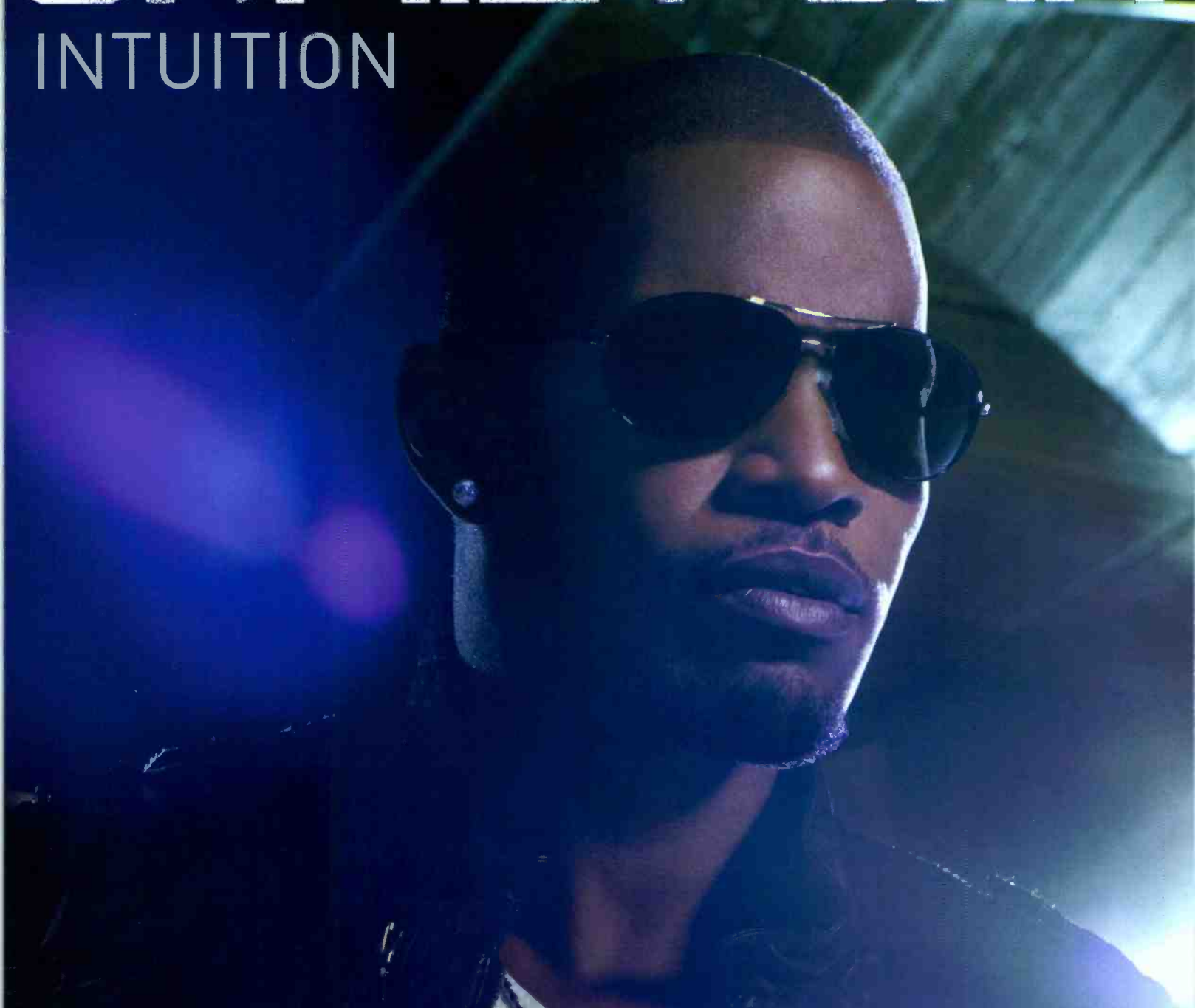
DJ Kutz

now. Hosted by Jive Records A&R and Hitz Committee CEO Mickey "MeMphHitz" Wright, the force behind stars like T-Pain, J-Kwon and Huey, the show

replaces "Rap City" airing weekdays from 5 to 6pm. Clear Channel urban WUSL-FM (Power 99) DJ Diamond Kutz is the resident DJ as the show provides a first look at rising stars and feature artists dropping their sickest rhymes with segments like "Certified Fresh" and "Spit Ya Game." Legendary freestyles will continue to go down in "The Booth," which will have a new home on the show.

# JAMIE FOXX

INTUITION



**“Just Like Me”** featuring **T.I.**

**Already Top 10 Research!**

Check out the video on BET, BETJ, VH1, MTV and online

**ALBUM INSTORE AND ONLINE NOW!**



ARISTA



INTUITION HAS PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE in the life of the kid who would become Jamie Foxx. That word that hints of what the future might hold is now the title of his second album on J Records and the actor/musician/writer/producer and comedian can be heard online and on his Sirius radio channel talking about it. He's hit half a dozen cities in one quick week, from the Rockefeller Center tree lighting to multi-city performances at album listening parties all over—just getting the word out.

## BY RUTH ADKINS ROBINSON

With the December 16<sup>th</sup> release of *Intuition*, Foxx inundates the TV airwaves, hitting talk shows "Good Morning America," "Regis & Kelly" and BET's "106 & Park" the very next day. He joins the ladies on "The View" on December 22 and performs on the 10<sup>th</sup> annual "A Home for the Holidays" special on CBS with Faith Hill on December 23<sup>rd</sup> that celebrates the joys of adoption. And the Sagittarian jets over to Las Vegas for a special birthday and record release party at the Tao at the Venetian for his December 13<sup>th</sup> birthday.

An exhausting schedule perhaps, but part of what he thinks is necessary "My energy is crazy right now because we got a huge task in front of us. I wanna do a million records over the holidays and in order to do that you gotta get out there and promote it." The first single, "Just Like Me" featuring T.I., hit radio in November, was available via all digital music providers just a day later, and is already in Top 10 Research. "Street Walker" went on pre-order at Wal-mart.com on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

# JAMMIN' HOT INTUITION

# JAMIE

Hard work and intuition walk hand in hand with Jamie because, like the trendy saying goes, everything he needed to know about life, he learned in kindergarten.

Maybe it was intuition when young Eric Marlon Bishop's grandmother down home in Terrell, Texas told him he was going to 'make a living' playing the piano. Grandmothers are known to have a sixth sense about their babies. Plain ole intuition is never enough though; you've got to act on the feeling. And while there was no formal kindergarten for the little boy, Grandma Esther Marie Talley put little Eric's behind on the piano bench around the time he was pre-school age and there he stayed because what grandma said was no joke--back in those days you did what you were told and worked hard for success.

Foxx has been working hard for the success of his second J Records album—for the last two years, in fact. He's tapped the kind of talent he feels necessary to recreate the success of his double-platinum chart-topper *Unpredictable*, BRE's year-end Cover Story in 2005. The music is more up-tempo than his initial J release and he's looking forward to people understanding that he wanted this album to "bang harder."

*Intuition* boasts hip-hop heavyweights from T.I. to Lil Wayne to Kanye West, plus R&B's current favorite son Ne-Yo, and production/songwriter superstars Timbaland, The Dream and Christopher "Tricky" Stewart., Sean Garrett, Salaam Remi, Carlos McKinney and Marsha Ambroius. Timbaland joins him on "I Don't Need It." while Lil Kim is featured on "Cover Girl," up for pre-orders on iTunes on December 9<sup>th</sup>. The album contains club and international hits structured towards that bangin' goal. "Number One" with Lil Wayne is currently being

THIS  
ALBUM IS  
LOADED  
WITH  
BACK-TO-  
BACK HOT  
JAMS!  
THE  
HOUSE IS  
REALLY  
INTO IT!

—TANISHA WILLIAMS,  
US Magazine correspondent at the Los  
Angeles listening party

"floated" into the clubs, while "Blame It" with T-Pain is slated for mid-January.

Video-turned-film director Brett Ratner said he had to direct the video for the Dream/Stewart-produced "Just Like Me" single. Currently playing on BET, BET J, VH1, MTV and online, the video features actress Taraji P. Henson who describes the experience as "so much fun." She explains, "The video opens with us as toddlers having a hot dog eating contest, and we go through these vignettes of competition. Silly competitions like a 'High Five competition' or 'The Stare Down competition', and it goes through who

wins. I win the majority of the time, but since it's his video, he has to win in the end."

The Grandma-instilled work ethic has paid off for Jamie. Success is a condition he got used to way back when he was still Eric. Success came to him as a church musician (earning 'big time money' he says..."\$75 a week"), decorated Boy Scout and Terrell High School's star quarterback. He also played basketball, ran track, played the trumpet and was voted 'most talented' in 1986.

But his success was limited by the other reality in Terrell's air. Even as a small kid, he remembers being excluded and judged for the color of his skin, so when his classical music skills were polished enough to win him a music scholarship at the United States International University, he broke out of Texas.

Two years into college and fate jumped up. For his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, Foxx went to a comedy club and answered the dare from friends that he get up and do his famous-to-them impressions.

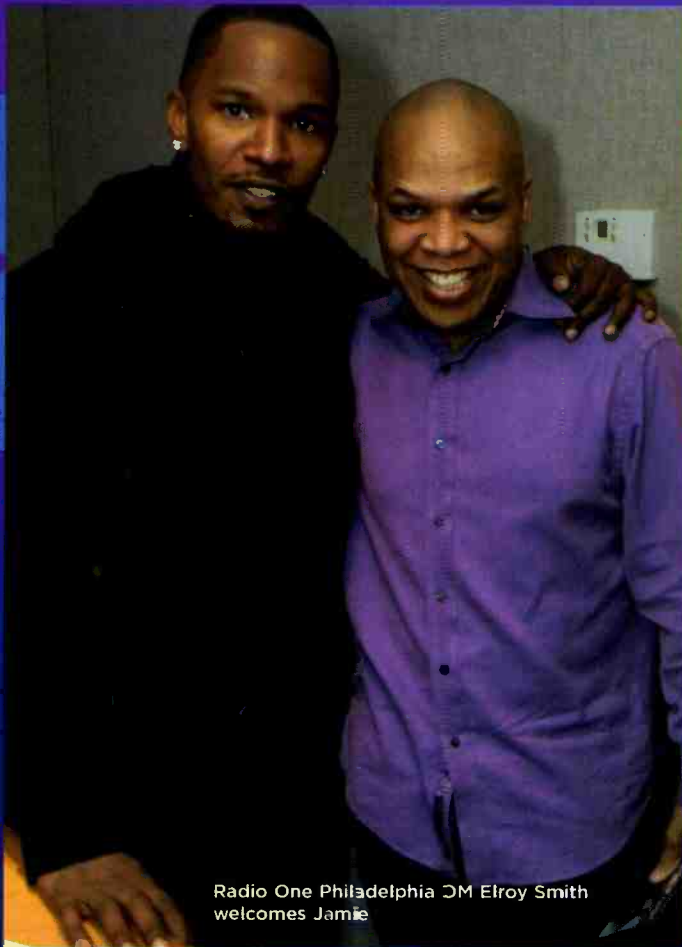
"I had some impressions up my sleeve," he has said, and at any given moment would suddenly sound like Mike Tyson, Ronald Reagan and Bill Cosby to prove the point. Now, 20 years later, he told talk host Jay Leno recently that he still wants to "play Mike" in a film and up popped the voice of the former heavyweight champion for the TV audience.

His initial success at stand-up got him plucked off the stage at 22 for Charles Dutton's "Rock" sitcom. Then he landed his role in "In Living Color" with the "5,000 Wayans" Jim Carey, David Alan Grier and Tommy Davidson. Ultimately given his own network TV series, "The Jamie Foxx Show," which ran five seasons, Jamie played a young man forced to take

FOXX

work in a hotel while waiting for Hollywood stardom. In real life, Foxx once worked in a shoe store during his wait for stardom, struggling to write some music and hone his stand-up skills.

It was about this time that intuition stepped in again. Mine. I don't remember if I'd seen him play at a club or heard his first album release *Peep This*, but somehow I



Radio One Philadelphia DJ Elroy Smith welcomes Jamie

finally got it that day--the fingering that Ray was showing him on a particularly difficult Thelonius Monk passage--it was 'like he had won the role directly from Ray Charles.'

Now he's an Academy Award winning actor, Grammy nominated musician, radio host, film producer, songwriter and stand-up comedian, thanks to turning Eric into Jamie. Driven by his grandparents' old school upbringing, Foxx has won enough trophies to fill up their old house in Texas. He has, in fact, a list of stats that boggles the mind. In addition to winning the Oscar, Foxx swept the Golden Globe, Screen Actors Guild, BAFTA and NAACP Image Awards as well as numerous critics' awards in 2005.

That same year, he garnered the same list of nominations for Best Supporting Actor for "Collateral." He also earned Golden Globe and SAG nominations and won an Image Award for Best Actor in a TV Movie for his role in "Redemption."

That marked the first time that a single actor has received three Golden Globe nominations and four SAG nominations in the same year. Foxx is also the first Black actor to be nominated for two Oscars in the same year and only the second man in history to receive two acting Oscar nominations in the same year for two different films. The next year his



Appearing on the November cover of Men's Fitness Magazine, Foxx explains how he lost 20 pounds to play the part of the homeless Nathaniel Ayers in "The Soloist" releasing next April 24th.

thought we ought to put him on the BRE Drummer Awards. BRE founder Sidney Miller was happy to do it although Jamie really wasn't known as a musician in Hollywood circles. He came and played and the people in the room left knowing that however funny or otherwise talented Foxx was, he was also a cut above any actor trying to squeeze himself into a 'singing role.'

Then came Oliver Stone and Foxx's breakout role as Willie Beamon in "Any Given Sunday." Foxx wanted the role so badly, he made a film for Stone showing his real-life quarterback prowess and even recorded a song for the project. He ended up performing the title song for the film.

Happily when Taylor Hackford was casting "Ray," he remembered the Stone film and started talking to Foxx. The film and his portrayal of Ray has become part of Jamie's myth and legend. For myself, I've always thought the trophy most difficult to win was what he sat through in the studio when called to play for and with Ray Charles himself. Ray was never easy about anything and when it came to his music and the film, Ray said, "If this boy is gonna play me, he'd better be right."

Believe me, he earned the right to play Ray that day in that audition turned baptism by fire. Hackford was there holding his breath, praying that he hadn't made a mistake and thinking 'this could blow up in my face.' But when Jamie



Jamie performed at the NBC Rockefeller Center tree lighting in NYC

performance in "Dream Girls" earned a Best Actor nomination from the NAACP.

Ok, so Jamie's got some awards, 32 in addition to Oscar, plus 38 nominations for other things. Some of those are for his music, which could be his real first love, depending on where you are standing and what light you see him in on any given day. *Unpredictable* topped the charts in late December 2005, held number one for five weeks and sold one million units in 20 days. So his big push to sell a million units of *Intuition* might not be such a dream after all.

*Unpredictable* also earned three Grammy nominations.

In January 2006, Foxx announced his partnership with Sirius Satellite Radio to start his own radio station, Foxxhole, a combination of comedy and music.

He'll be hitting the concert road again. Foxx says he plans to tour for *Intuition* in the spring, after he finishes a 10-week shoot for "Law Abiding Citizen," a drama with Jerry Butler. His next film, "The Soloist" -- the true-life story of homeless cello virtuoso Nathaniel Ayers -- is due in theaters this April. For it, Foxx learned to play the violin and the cello, ramping up his total of proficiency on musical instruments to half a dozen.

Going on the road, Foxx sees himself possibly pairing up with NeYo, who is featured on "She Got Her Own" along with Fabolous, for a little different demographic than

*Unpredictable*. But just as he wanted *Intuition* to be banging hard, he is looking for a high-energy tour too. If his presentation in Los Angeles recently is any indicator, the energy is indeed crazy and intense.

And just in case there might be any idea that Eric Bishop had totally disappeared inside the man who became Jamie Foxx, here's part of what he said when picking up his Oscar for "Ray."

"My grandmother's name is Estelle Marie Talley. She's not here tonight. And this is going to be the toughest part. But she was my first acting teacher. She told me to stand up straight. Put your shoulders back. Act like you got some sense. We would go places. And I would wild out. And she would say, 'Act like you've been somewhere.' ...She still talks to me now. Only now, she talks to me, in my dreams. And I can't wait to go to sleep tonight because we got a lot to talk about."

No doubt when she talks to Jamie in his dreams now, she is saying her intuition was right about him all along.



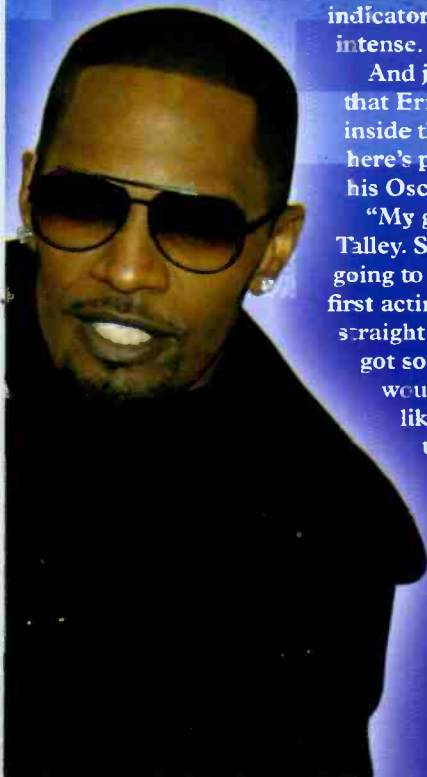
Joining with the WBLS staff



Radio One urban AC WRNB-FM (107.9) midday host/APD Moshay Laren talks to Jamie about *Intuition*



Inner City urban AC WBLS-FM (107.5) PS Skip Dillard and Jamie Foxx in NYC



Jamie Foxx and Robert Downey Jr. in a scene from *The Soloist*



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# RADIO'S DRI

## SKIP CHEATHAM

### LIFE WITH SKIP IS A DAY AT 'DA PLAYGROUND

**B**ig ups to the people at Disney theme parks for doing what they do so well, but they could learn a thing or two from K104 program director Skip Cheatham about

urban audiences. Cheatham's popular morning show on #1 rated Dallas Service Broadcasting urban KKDA-FM (K104), "Skip Cheatham's Da Playground," is one of the most

visited listener attractions in Dallas, Texas, and Skip C rises early Mon-Fri mornings to keep it poppin' from 5:30 to 10:00 am for the thousands of people who come to it hourly. For those of us who met some of the more memorable characters of our youth in schoolyards and playgrounds, the show is both an electronic time machine and an ultra hip-hop magazine. Whether Skip assembled this rich ensemble based on memories of his early Philadelphia years or culled them from the creative pool that is his imagination, he gives the largest hip-hop morning audience in the Big D outrageous fun and great music.

The characters are familiar, but not stale; they are as amusing as they are interesting.

Sam Putney, who's one of the truly great radio veterans, has a sterling track record as disc jockey and newsman in big time radio across the country. Sam loves satire and parody and offers it up fresh each morning.

Lady Jade is that fine girl you once knew who was up on everybody's business in the hood, only now she is up on people's business all over the world. Just like back in the day, she soups it up and tells it. All cars are on her in the morning.

Remember the guy who quoted the game scores and stats from the night before while you were asleep and recalled the performances of even the most obscure players and coaches?

BY PARIS ELEY

Photo by  
ANGELA WEEDON PHOTOGRAPHY

People still go to the playground to hear Chris Arnold's take on the games and he has grown from a walking sports almanac into an encyclopedia.

Fly Ty is pull-over-and-stop funny; he's

a terrific disc jockey and stand up comedian--the instigator in whose crosshairs no one wants to be caught.

If you think that leaves little for Cheatham to do, remember this: that's just the morning show!



White Gary, who is the producer of the show and, ahem...white, is one of the people that Skip relies upon as his programming assistant to make the visions in his head become radio reality. The others, G Spook, Julio G, and Ebony & Delite, D.J. Bay Bay, Cat Daddy, G Man, and Kiki, along with station management, give him the competitive edge that has kept K104 in the top tier of urban music stations across the country.

Cheatham's boyish appearance and freshly scrubbed good looks camouflage a wily radio veteran and savage infighter willing to go to war over the metro territory at the drop of an AQH (Average Quarter Hour). He makes no peace with defeat. He once said, "I don't agree with that saying, 'It's not how you win or lose...,' losers said that. I wanna win...I like to win by blowout. When I win, I win convincingly. My bouts will not be won by decision."

When the ratings are not what Skips believes to be justified, everyone involved is under scrutiny and that includes the people at the ratings services. He has recently set his sights, along with other urban programmers, on the Portable Personal Meters (PPMs) used by Arbitron to show black listening habits. The methodology, that is under attack from minority-programmed stations, in particular, does not measure up itself, explains Cheatham. "Exposure is not listening," he argues. "What about the listener who has us locked in at home and in the car but has to listen to another for-



# VING FORCE

mat at work?" We lose those people as P1 listeners and that results in under-representation. This is not about bragging rights. This is commerce!

He has been vocal with Arbitron representatives. But whining is not his style. He has fine tuned programming and re-enforced the proven tactics of branding and community involvement. ("Roll out the Humvees, people; we're taking back our metro-plex"). General Patton would be proud.

But on weekends, the per-

sona changes, his family time is not given to the strategies of business but the love of family. Tiffany, his adorable wife with one "f", would not allow it. Trey, his five-year old son, and three-year old daughter, Taylor, soak up as much of their popular father as they can enjoy. But, Skip's not just a weekend dad; much of the information for this article came as he was sitting in the car waiting to pick up his children from swimming lessons, and politely pointing out the importance that he stresses on family time. Even though he still finds time to shoot hoops and "tear up the white folk's grass" (golf, playground style), the bulk of it is spent with his wife as they delight in the ballet and tennis lessons, the pee-pee soccer and basketball games, and introducing the children to the magic of childhood.

"Saying Skip is a good father is a complete understatement," exclaims Tiffany. "He is incredible. Taylor and Trey think their Dad is a superhero and he has worked really hard to get that title! We eat as a family every night and Skip attends all games and performances... all with that signature smile on his face! The kids know how important they are to him and how much he loves them. We are a team. We are each other's best friend and biggest fan, but also, biggest critic. Skip and I respect each other fully. The kids and I are his reality check. It's kind of funny, but the kids already understand that we are a team and they do not try to play us. Our family is truly blessed"

**We are a team...the kids and I are his reality check.**

—Tiffany Cheatham

When the weekends are over, Skip leaves his family and the wondrous world that he and Tiffany create for their children and returns to...well...his family, and Da Playground...where they create a wondrous world for their listeners. I'm telling you, Disney can learn something from this man.

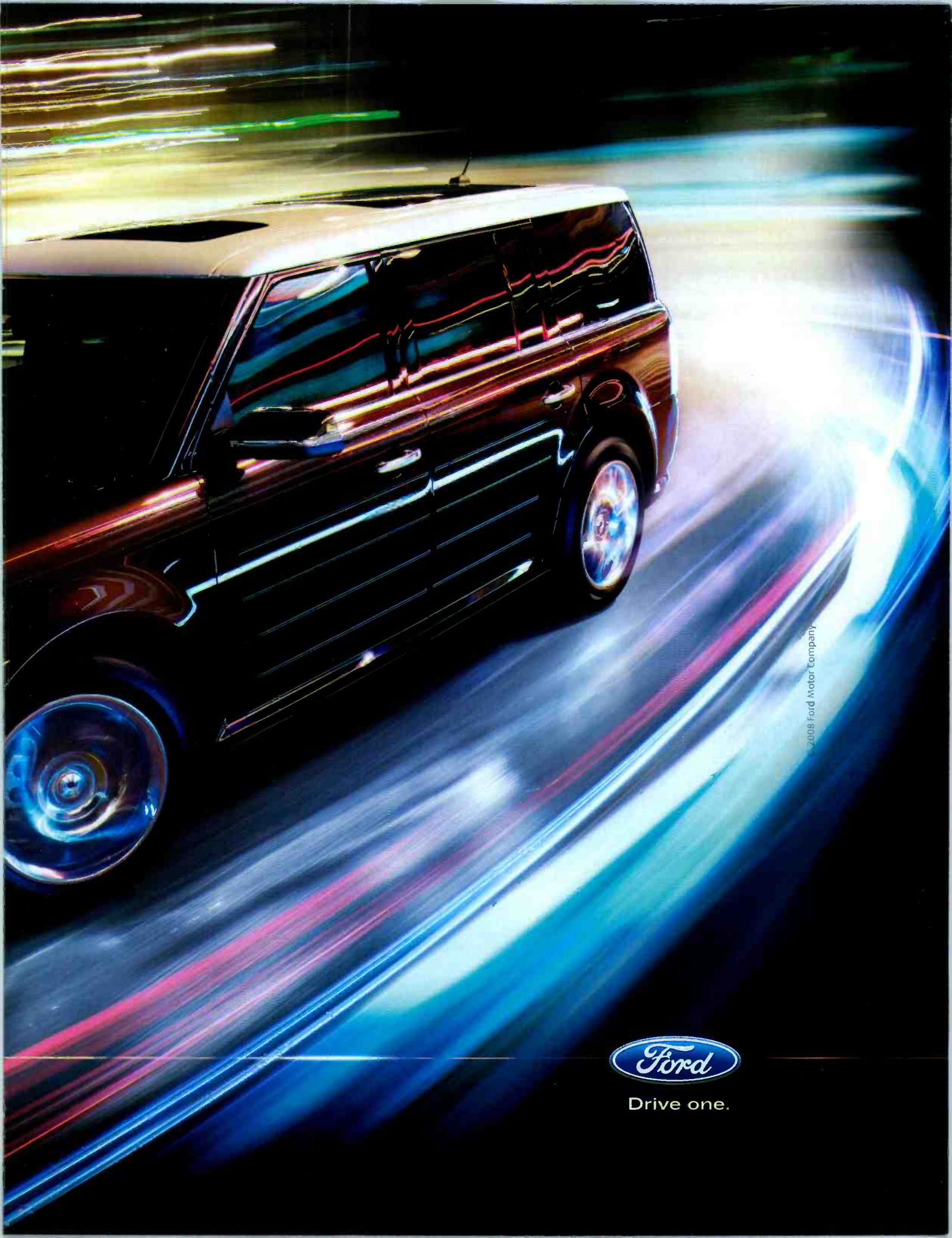


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# WILLIAM P MILLER

## turns events into unforgettable moments

By Lydia R. Proenza

*There are events and there are moments. We create moments!*

These are the words William P. Miller, Los Angeles' event planner extraordinaire, lives by when planning the glittering events he creates. Miller is the owner of W.P. Miller Special Events and Elcenia's Theme, a company specializing in unique invitations, handcrafted greeting cards and stationary.

The Chicago native, who grew up on the same streets First Lady Elect Michelle Obama played on and was a regular in Rev. Wright's church where he worked alongside the young Barack Obama, says his first exposure to great events was as a child, when he would see his banker father and mother get dressed up to attend banquets and balls. He became interested in event planning as a young volunteer for the Lou Rawls Parade of Stars Telethon to support the United Negro College Fund. And his first experience would go full circle in 2006, when he was asked to plan Lou Rawls' funeral service.

When a job with United Airlines brought him to LA, William was the "go to guy" when friends and co-workers were planning weddings, baby showers or big parties. But he wouldn't turn "pro" until the 9/11 tragedy that caused the airline to retrench right when his project of automated kiosks was ready to be implemented thereby resulting in him losing his Project Manager position with the airline. Miller offers his clients a unique blend of creativity and elegance, combined with the skills from his marketing degree, and the globe-trotting experience that took him to all the world's great capitals of fashion and style. When Miller is planning an event he says, "It's not only about what the client wants, but you are also providing the guest with a memorable experience."

One example he cites was a unique safari theme wedding in South Africa he did for an investment banker bride and her auto industry executive groom. Included was what he described as "journey sacks" containing a soft blanket and pillow, camera, toiletries, candy, chewing gum and other travel essentials for a comfortable journey that were given to the 15 guests before they boarded the flight to Johannesburg.



Because Miller feels that *the moment* begins with the invitation, he also started his invitation/stationary company, Elcenia's Theme, which produces unique wedding announcements like the one he designed in 2004 for actress Mira Sorvino's wedding on the island of Capri in Italy. The 3-D effect invitation was made of natural Italian paper in soft blues and white and had sparkles and crystals.

Miller is well known for his weddings: actress Sheryl Lee Ralph's and Pennsylvania State Senator Vincent Hughes' lavish 2005 ceremony; songwriter/composer Jerry Peters; the finale episode as well as others for the television shows "Married Away" and "Whose Wedding Is It Anyway?" He did the Style Network's season finale of the show "Married Away" in 2007.

But he says he loves to do events with a purpose. Relying on his knowledge gained from his marketing degree to help non-profit organizations increase their supporters expand their visibility is also one of his fortes.

One of the groups he works with is 9-1-1 for Kids, a Westminster, California group that advocates public education, disaster and emergency preparedness and response. He oversees the group's celebrity golf tournament. And then there's the stunning yearly gala for friends, The Foundation of the California African American Museum, a historical institution founded 30 years ago with the mission to research, collect, preserve and interpret for public enrichment, the history, art and culture of African Americans.

Miller has planned everything from simple gatherings to mega music festivals, and over the years his clients have included Women in Film, Farmer's Insurance, Johnson Publishing, Chameleon Chair Collection, comedian George Wallace, actress Niecy Nash, Jennifer Lewis and the legendary singer Nancy Wilson.

Reaching back to his Chicago roots, Miller fondly recalls the tight-knit neighborhoods where everyone felt at home—where everyone belonged! And whether it's an exotic safari wedding

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# RedOne

## International Melody-Maker

By Sidney Miller III

With a current Grammy nomination for Best Dance Song for Lady GaGa's "Just Dance," Moroccan-born producer RedOne is bringing a multi-national move to melody. Dubbed the "melody king" for his love of songs with memorable and substantial melodies, the eclectic producer avows he's "not just a beat maker."

"Even though they are very electro sounding, you can play guitar to my songs. There are chord progressions that you can follow," he explains.

Understanding what makes a song resonate with people along with understanding what is the right sound for each artist is what has made so many A&R's call upon him for their bigger projects. He produced six songs and one remix for the latest New Kids On The Block album, the group upon which the Backstreet Boys were based. He is the only producer in 20 years who's been able to unite NKTOB and New Edition for a new collaboration that will appear on both group's upcoming projects. His production on Kat Deluna's album illustrates that he really does tailor his sound to the artist unlike many other A-List producers who give each artist the same sound whether it fits them or not.

"Rhythm is really important to me," he explains. "Coming from Morocco, listening to every kind of music, I had to please everyone and listen to everything." He moved to Sweden when he was 18 and became enmeshed in its budding music scene, joining the highly rhythmic alternative rock band Heavy as a guitarist that made it as far as getting signed. This broader musical palate, along with his upbringing in Morocco in a house filled with nine family members with all different musical tastes provided him wider panoply from which to draw to produce urban pop music.

Sweden was the stage for a late 90's pop explosion led by Max Martin, Dr. Luke and a slew of producers including Rami Yacoub, Sweden's pop production powerhouse who created Britney Spears first hits as well as Backstreet Boys and Nsync's biggest hits. It was Rami who convinced RedOne to start producing. But unlike many of his Swedish peers then, it would take RedOne another "14 years of

non-stop work," he says, before it would be his turn to be the "go to" producer.

With hits on a variety of European and Canadian artists, including a Swedish Grammy for "Step Up" by Darin and a mash up of Shakira's "Hips Don't Lie" with his song "Bamboo" featuring Shakira, Wyclef Jean and Jerry Duplessis that became the official World Cup 2006 theme song performed before 1.2 billion people at the finals in Berlin, RedOne brought his sound stateside and his reputation grew from there.

His business partner Esse, who is from Nigeria, introduced him to his fellow Nigerian friend, Akon. The two immediately struck up a relationship that culminated in a joint music company simply called RedOneKonvict that would help make RedOne a power player.

Today, the BMI songwriter/producer takes meetings with Clive Davis and Jimmy Iovine. His Grammy nod for Lady GaGa came after L.A. Reid dropped her. RedOne did some songs on her and helped get her a deal at Interscope and then got Akon involved in the project as well. The result: Lady GaGa's *The Fame* sold 24,000 in its first week, charting singles all over the place.

Using his laptop as a traveling world-class studio, RedOne has produced Akon's new *Freedom* album as well as projects for Brandy, Enrique Iglesias' entire new album, Sean Kingston, Lionel Richie and Toni Braxton. Globally embraced, RedOne produced the award-winning Mexican band RBD on its first English language LP *Rebels*. He's got songs on such diverse artists as Menudo's upcoming LP, Virgin artist Varsity Fanclub, Tami Chynn's whole album

co-produced with Akon for SRC/Universal, Robyn, Cheetah Girls, Christina Milian, Tiffany Evans and 3LW.

With hits in places like France, New Zealand, Switzerland, and Canada, among others, RedOne has proven his international prowess—a factor not lost on Michael Jackson, the 'King of Pop,' who's been hunkered down with him and Akon at the Palm Studios in Las Vegas as the masterminds for his next project. The internationally established artist knows he has a global audience to reach when he steps out again and RedOne is holding the world pulse on melody.



# RADIO NEWS

## Baisden Reups with ABC Radio Mike Love Joins As PD

ABC Radio Networks has signed a multi-year syndication deal with national radio personality Michael Baisden. The top-ranked urban afternoon program in the country, "The Michael Baisden Show," has been airing in syndication with ABC since 2005 and has grown to 68 affiliates, holding the number one position in its slot in key markets New York, Philadelphia, Detroit and Washington, D.C. The new deal includes a development deal in addition to multi-media platforms including websites, podcasts, and mobile channel and live events.



Mike Love

Thirty-year radio veteran and most recently PD/midday personality of Inner City urban AC WWDW-FM (101.3) in Columbia, South Carolina, Mike Love has joined Baisden's show as Director of Programming and Distribution. Relocating to Dallas, where the show originates, Love says, "I am extremely excited about this opportunity and look forward to continuing the advancement and growth of 'The Michael Baisden Show.' This show has one of the most loyal audiences in radio and I'm proud to know I'll help play a role in its continued success."

"Mike comes to us with extensive experience in programming and as a former on-air talent and promotions director, he will provide a unique perspective," says senior VP of programming and distribution Carl Anderson, to whom he will report. "His industry knowledge will help him take one of the most successful radio programs today to an even higher level of performance for both audiences and advertisers."

Heard in 22 of the top 25 urban radio markets, "The Michael Baisden Show" reaches more than 4.6 million listeners each week.

## ABC Radio Networks Offers TV Content

ABC Radio Networks and Comcast Entertainment Group have entered into an agreement that brings the popular content from E! Entertainment, The Style Network and G4 to radio audiences for the first time. Program offerings will include celebrity and entertainment news from E!, women's lifestyle programming from Style, and the latest on technology, web culture, and video games from G4. All content will be available in ABC's more than 4,400 affiliate stations reaching more than 105 million listeners and online.

## Kizart Departs Interep

As Interep closed its doors, it lost one of its veterans. Sherman Kizart, Interep's Senior VP/Director of Urban Marketing, departed his position on November 21 after 12 years with the company. He championed urban radio with his annual "The Power of Urban Radio" symposium, which helped the advertising community understand the value of the medium.

## Abernethy, Demps and Decker Join Arbitron's Advisory Council

The Arbitron Radio Advisory Council announced some of its newly elected three-year term members who begin serving January 2009. Lisa Decker, senior VP of Western mid-sized markets for CBS Radio, is chairman for 2009 and will be the first woman to serve in this capacity. Doug Abernethy, VP/GM for Radio One/Houston urban KBXX (97.9 the Box), urban AC KMJQ (Magic 102.1) and gospel KROI (Praise 92.1), joins as vice chairman. Bruce Demps of Radio One urban WHTA-FM (107.9) in Atlanta will represent stations in the Black/Urban Format/Top 100 Market category.

## Joyner Foundation Continues 'Full Rides'

The Tom Joyner Foundation is promoting its "full ride" scholarship program that will cover all the expenses for up to 10 semesters for a student planning to attend a Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCUs) in the fall of 2009. "Last year, we offered our first full-ride scholarship, and I'm really excited about doing it again," said Tom Joyner, chairman of his Foundation and host of the top-ranked nationally syndicated radio show. "I can't wait to meet some of the best and brightest students in the country."

## Steve Harvey Adds Hip Hop Content

"The Steve Harvey Morning Show" (SHMS) has teamed with UDub!News, a subsidiary of mobile and digital content aggregator UrbanWorld Wireless, to provide up-to-date information on a wide variety of issues that affect the urban and hip-hop communities. UDub!News, which targets the urban youth market via email, SMS, MMS, RSS news feeds and video, will be featured daily on the SHMS website in its "What's Now" section. Contests as well as exclusive music and ringtones will be among the features in the UDub!News feed.

## Flo Goes to Superadio

Media personality and syndicated columnist Flo Anthony has signed with Superadio Networks to syndicate a daily entertainment segment, "Gossip on the Go with Flo," effective December 29, 2008. Also the publisher/editor-in-chief of *Black Noir* and *Toy Box Magazines*, Anthony contributes a regular column called "Go with the Flo" to the *New York Amsterdam News*, *Philadelphia Sunday Sun* and *BRE*. She is also a contributor to the In The Know column in the *National Examiner* and *In Touch* magazine. Gossip on the Go with Flo currently airs in 15 markets including WJLB (97.9) Detroit, KKDA (104) Dallas, WHUR (96.3) Washington, D.C., WZMX (93.7) Hartford and WDKX (103.9) Rochester, New York.



## Fatman Scoop 'Full Throttle'

The Phrequency Entertainment-produced "Full Throttle Radio with Fatman Scoop" show welcomes a new syndicator in Superadio. The three-hour weekly mixshow, currently heard on 25 affiliates, will continue with DJ Mr. Vince mixing and Fatman Scoop, who also stars in the weeknight MTV show "Man and Wife."

## Satellite Merger Consolidates Shows

With the merger of XM and Sirius satellite radio, some channels were deleted or renamed as some new programming was added. Subscription fees are not affected except for "Best of" packages that include such Sirius channels as Howard Stern, Martha Stewart Living, Playboy, NASCAR and the NFL and XM channels as "Oprah & Friends," the NBA, the NHL, the PGA and "The Virus." Among the channels cut is the popular "Beyond Jazz," hosted by veteran radio broadcaster Maxx Myrick from the XM side. New channels added to XM include Jamie Foxx's The Foxxhole and Eminem's Shade 45. New to Sirius is B.B. King's Bluesville. With the two companies combined, the new entity projects 20.6 million subscribers in 2009.

# BIG SHOTS RADIO's TALKIN' TO



Citadel urban WWCZ-FM (Z93.3 Jamz) welcomed Music Soul to the Charleston, South Carolina studios of the top-rated Da Breakfast Club. (l-r) morning co-host Baby J, Music and co-host Tessa Spencer



Geffen/Capitol recording artist Avant joins Cox urban WJMZ-FM (107.3) for the third annual 1073 Jamz Black Party, packing the event with 1500 valued listeners. The event had actually sold out a week before. (l-r) Jay Jackson (Geffen Records), Kenny the Mac Miles (WJMZ Quiet Storm Host), Avant, Kelly Mac (APD/MD/Middays) and WJMZ OM, Steve Crumley



Clear Channel urban AC KHHT-FM (Hot 92.3) welcomed Deborah Cox to its Wilshire Boulevard studios in Los Angeles. (l-r) Deco Entertainment's Kristin Hetrick, KHHT PD R Dub! Deco Entertainment artist Deborah Cox, KHHT middayer Al B. Sure!



Gospel star Bryan Wilson stopped by Radio One's Raleigh, NC office to spin his new radio single "A Change in Me" for gospel WNNL-FM (103.9 The Light), program director Jerry Smith and music director Melissa Wade. The neo-soul gospel tune is from Wilson's latest CD, A Second Coming, on the Bryan's Songs music label. (l-r) Melissa Wade, Bryan Wilson and Jerry Smith  
—Photo by Bill Carpenter



Radio One urban AC WRN3-FM (107.9) air personality and media coach Dyanna Williams celebrated 34 years in broadcasting with Warner Bros Records execs Ken Wilson and Mike Kelly.



Veteran soul/gospel singer Candi Staton stopped by Coco Brother's evening radio show at Radio One gospel WPZE-FM (Praise 97.5) in Atlanta to promote her new praise and worship CD, I Will Sing My Praise to You, on Emtrö Gospel. The radio single is "Just Jesus." (l-r) Emtrö-Gospel VP of Promotions Tawanda Sharley, Cory "Coco Brother" Condrey and Cardi Staton  
—Photo by Bill Carpenter





# NORTHEAST

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Reporter: **Calvin Terrell**

## Deborah Cox: The Promise

Toronto native Deborah Cox introduced her new Decca album *The Promise* at an intimate soiree in NYC. (l-r) her husband and manager Lascelles Stephens, Deborah Cox and music executive Rich Nice



NYC WQHT-FM (Power 105.1) radio personality Cherry Martinez, Deborah Cox and music executive Rich Nice.



NYC WQHT-FM (Power 105.1) radio personality Cherry Martinez, Deborah Cox and music executive Rich Nice

## KISS Holiday Mix Master Weekend

A “who’s who” of classic DJs kicks off the holidays on Emmie urban WRKS-FM (Kiss 98.7) NYC for Holiday Master Mix Weekend starting Christmas Day and ending December 28. Master mixers include Kool DJ Red Alert, Chuck Chillout, Chris Love, Brucie B, Kid Capri and DJ Jazzy Jeff, DJ Qua, DJ Pleasure, Darry James, Ruben Toro, DJ Lady Dee, Tommie Allen and Grandmaster Flash.

“KISS FM is the most legendary radio station in NYC,” explains KISS Mixshow Coordinator and Hot 97 DJ Funkmaster Flex. “It was the first station to really support DJs and mixers in major dayparts in the early ‘80s. It’s only right that they are the first to do it again with the World’s Greatest DJs.”

## ‘BLS Beat Goes On Staying Focused on Community

WBSL, all decked out in holiday décor with falling snowflakes on its website, will be taking 107 winners in its “Yes We Can Holiday Jam” contest to the MGM at Foxwoods on December 19 for a show featuring Doug E. Fresh and Slick Rick. Steve Harvey and Wendy Williams will be leading the celebration for the Inner City Broadcasting heritage urban AC station WBSL-FM (107.5).

Unfortunately some of its staffers will not be joining in the celebration. Two veteran broadcasters, virtual icons at WBSL, were let go just before Thanksgiving. “Quiet Storm” night show host Vaughn Harper with more than 20 years at the station and overnight personality Champaine, who just celebrated her 25th anniversary with the station this year, were among those cut as the station looks to economize and lower its overhead. No replacements have been named as the station goes to an all-music playlist, still airing a Quiet Storm format in Harper’s timeslot. The station and listeners were sorry to lose two friends that had helped establish the WBSL legacy.

ICBC is even more focused on its community involvement, especially in these critical times and recently headed a major food drive along with sister station gospel WLIB-AM (1190) that Capitol artist Avant joined to gather food supplies for the needy.

WLIB’s midday personality/PD Denise Hill, aka Gospel Lady, who recently hosted an after Thanksgiving gospel concert—she called it a church party—has given up her programming duties to focus more on her air show, reports Inner City OM Skip Dillard, who will handle programming for the gospel station in the interim.

The station recently signed with Katz Media, upon

## Allan Houston Expands Legacy



New York Knicks All-Star and Assistant to the President Allan Houston hosted a fundraiser for the Allan Houston Legacy Foundation at the Sports Museum of America recently auctioning off autographed collectibles from LeBron James, Tiger Woods and Derek Jeter, among others as celebrities like Wynton Marsalis, Ron Howard and Ben Stiller bid. (l-r) Houston with special guests Malik Rose, Jared Jeffries and John Starks—Photo by Hubert Williams

### RUSH Youth Holiday Party

Hundreds of at-risk New York City youth affiliated with Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation-supported programs partied at Rush Philanthropic's Ninth Annual Youth Holiday Party sponsored by Target.

Dawn Richards of Danity Kane hosted the holiday party which included appearances by Russell Simmons, hip-hop artists Jim Jones and Teyana Taylor, JoJo Simmons (son of Reverend Run) of Run's House on MTV, BET's Alesha Renee, radio personality Egypt,

America's Next Top Model Jaslene Gonzalez, TV hit "Heroes" Jamie Hector, platinum selling singer/producer Ryan Leslie, Que from the group Day 26 on MTV's "Making The Band," Darrelle Revis from the New York Jets, among others.



Rapper Jim Jones with JoJo Simmons, son of Rev Run and star of MTV hit show "Run's House"—Photo by Jerritt Clark



Platinum selling singer/songwriter Ryan Leslie falling into the adoring crowd —Photo by Mark Blackshear



(l-r) Russell Simmons; Yves Bellefleur, Executive Team Leader of Assets Protection, Target; Rush Philanthropic Arts Foundation Executive Director, Tangie Murray; Co-founder, Danny Simmons; Aki Moore, District Assets Protection Team Leader, Target.—Photo by Mark Blackshear

Interop's demise. "We are excited to enter into this long-term relationship with the Katz Radio Group," said ICBC president Charles Warfield. "We expect this partnership to result in significant new revenue opportunities through stronger advertising relationships and an increased number of multiplatform marketing opportunities."

to be instrumental in changing that and leave some small legacy for the medium I love and find infinitely cool, including the people that are part of it. The #1 priority is to ensure Emmis NY is a benefactor of that and I am privileged to be entrusted with such an opportunity in such uncertain times. This will be a very challenging role with challenging expectations and I welcome it with vigor."

### Emmis NY Promotes Alexandra Cameron

Alexandra Cameron has been promoted to SVP/GM of Emmis Radio's New York cluster that includes Top 40/rhythmic WQHT-FM (Hot 97) and urban WRKS-FM (98.7). Previously Director of Sales, and prior to that GSM of Hot 97, Cameron is "a high-energy, passionate believer in radio, who also serves as a leading voice of change and creativity in our industry," commented Emmis Radio President Rick Cummings. "I'm certain she'll take Emmis New York to even greater levels of performance."

"It blows my mind that our medium continues to be so clearly undervalued and misunderstood," Cameron responded. "My greatest passion is

### From A Planet Called Harlem...

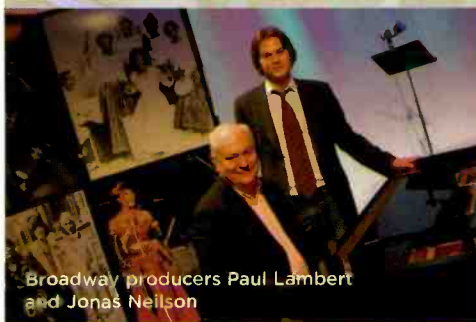
Producer/artist Pharrell introduced his latest protégé, Teyana Taylor, at the Kush Lounge in NYC. The event served as her 18th birthday bash as well. Her first single, "I Feel Alive (Spinnin')" featuring Pharrell impacts this January, with the album, *From A Planet Called Harlem*, scheduled for a March release. Bangladesh, Hit Boy and Pharrell join in the production for the birthday girl.

### Jazz At The Bricktop



The Wallace Roney Quintet

The Apollo Theater recently saluted the Broadway musical, "Bricktop, Queen of the Night," with an invitation-only, closed-door jazz session that included Wallace Roney and his Quintet along with Mickey Bass, Don McKenzie, Katie Bull, Iqua Colson, Onaje Allan Gumbs, Winard Harper, the Dom Minasi Trio, Maurice Chestnut and the Avery Sharpe Trio, among others. The upcoming musical is based on the life of Ada "Bricktop" Smith, an American-born jazz cabaret owner in Paris in the '20s and '30s who nurtured some of jazz's greatest players. The Bricktop, as her cabaret was called, was world renowned, where celebrities, royalty, politicians and music lovers would stop in to hear the hippest jazz and be photographed. Paul Lambert, Jonas Neilson and Whoopi Goldberg are producing the musical, with original music and lyrics by Ron Abel and Chuck Steffan.



Broadway producers Paul Lambert and Jonas Neilson

### UNICEF Snowflake Lighting

Rihanna and Ne-Yo were among those helping to make the traditional UNICEF Snowflake Lighting in NYC special.



Rihanna and UNICEF President Carly Stern —Photo by Jeff Connell/Camera One



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# MIDWEST

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Reporter: **Jerome Simmons**

## Milwaukee Gets Taste of South Florida



South Florida native, 18 year-old Young AC, aka Prince of Broward County, gave listeners in Milwaukee a taste of his dynamics performing his single "The Flyest," from his debut Deepside Entertainment album, *First Impressions*, due in the spring through Industry Works/Federal Distribution. (l-r) Young A.C., T-Pain and Young A.C.'s Deepside Entertainment labelmate Puncho represent at Milwaukee's Club Onyx—Photo by Stacey Noland

## WVAZ (V103) Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Some familiar faces gathered to reminisce and reveal the real history of two decades of adult urban contemporary radio as Clear Channel urban AC WVAZ-FM (V103) celebrated its 20th anniversary. Radio guru Barry Mayo originally transformed the former WBMX-FM (102.7) into WVAZ to superserve the African-American adult audience taking the station "from worst to first in its first rating period," commented PD Derrick Brown as he gathered with other DJs to discuss the history with reporter William Hageman in a delightful interview that ran in the November 17th issue of the *Chicago Tribune*.

Legendary air personalities and radio imagers like Herb Kent, who recently celebrated his 80th birthday, Troi Tyler, Ramonski Luv and Scott "Smokin" Sitz were among those sharing their stories.

Recalls Kent: "I was working at WGCI at the time, and they pooh-poohed it. I remember [WGCI president and general manager] Marv Dyson said, 'It's not going to be anything.' And the ratings came out, and 'GCI went down the tubes to 3s, and everybody's walking around with long faces. And 'BMX was just, whoa, gone.'"

Troi Tyler shared this tale of the early days: "I came over to V103, having worked at 'GCI for six years where the phone's just ringing all the time. I'm in the studio, and I'm looking at the phones, and they were not really ringing. Maybe one light was lit. I got up and went in the hall, 'Hello, excuse me? Can I get an engineer here, there's something wrong with the phones!' I forget who, but someone walked in and said, 'Troi, this is an adult station. These are grown folks. If you tell them to call ... they'll call. They don't just play with the phones.' It's a wonderful thing being in the adult world."

## Winans Cheer



Vickie Winans and her daughter-in-law, Vicky Johnson, have combined their respective resources—Winans' fashion jewelry Accents by Vickie Winans and Johnson's Glamour Hair Salon—into one shop. The two celebrate the grand opening of the new store at 2801 Southfield Road in Lathrup Village, Michigan on December 22 with Christmas sales and cheer for all. Winans' son Marvin will perform along with her brother, smooth jazz artist Tim Bowman. And Winans will be playing holiday songs from her latest Christmas CD, *Happy Holidays*, the first release on her own Destiny Joy Records.

## Chicago's More Inspiring

Clear Channel's gospel/inspirational WGRB-AM (Inspiration 1390) in Chicago is now on HD radio via its simulcast on sister urban AC WVAZ's HD2 channel at 102.7. This marks a major move for the inspirational station. Says Sonja Blakey, PD/afternoon personality: "It's an exciting time for Inspiration 1390 to broadcast on FM radio. Gospel music on FM radio has been long-awaited in Chicago, 'The Gospel Capital of the World,' and WGRB is proud to bring it to Chicagoland."

## Hallelujah! Yolanda's In St. Louis

Syndication One's "Yolanda Adams Morning Show" has been added to Clear Channel gospel KATZ-AM (Hallelujah 1600) in St. Louis, according to PD Darrel Eason. This marked the 30th affiliate carrying the award-winning syndicated show since it aired two years ago.



PRESENTS

# Jeep.

## UNLIMITED

### RADIO PERSONALITY

# CHERON

## of WJLB/Detroit FM98

### Bold Choice = Big Career in the Motor City

By Hedi Butler



**A**t a time when the decline of the automotive industry has imperiled Detroit's economic future, there is a consistent bright spot in the lives of Motor City residents – the upbeat community-oriented programming of Clear Channel Urban powerhouse WJLB (FM 98).

Over the past seven years, Cheron Mans, who enjoys single-name popularity, has risen through the ranks to make her own mark at the station. She is a consummate multi-tasker who seamlessly performs her duties as Midday Air Personality (10am-2pm), Assistant Program Director and Music Director. And now BRE adds, "Jeep Unlimited Radio Personality" to that list.

When we spoke to Cheron recently, she was excited and humbled by the honor she earned by her ability to expand her boundaries in a way that reflects the Jeep model she'll drive around the Motor City for a month. She chose a Commander that she describes as "classy, with so many features that appeal to a person on the go."

It was a fitting selection for a young woman who owes her radio career to exercising her own power to make 'bold choices,' the Commander's catchphrase. "I was studying engineering at Michigan State University in my hometown of Lansing when I realized that was not what I wanted to do with my life," she recalls. "Music was really my first love and wherever it led me, that's where I wanted to go."

Fortunately, music led Cheron to radio, when a church member who owned WQHH gave her an internship that evolved into co-hosting a morning show. She was heard by former WJLB personality Reggie Reg and later offered an opportunity to enter the Detroit market. "It was only an hour and 15 minutes away, but it opened up a new world for me," she says.

"I started doing traffic, did a week-end show to perfect my craft, hosted the Quiet Storm for several years, and sat under then Music Director Kris Kelly," Cheron says. Under the leadership of the station's current Director of Urban Programming, KJ Holiday, whom she credits as a mentor, her competence and tenacity were rewarded with a Midday slot, as well as the APD and MD positions.

**"I want my 'command' of the midday airwaves to help listeners... set a positive tone for their workday."** —Cheron Mans

"Cheron is one dynamic and talented personality," Holiday told BRE. "She is extremely thorough as a programming assistant and is my go-to person on the music because she represents the lifestyle of our listeners (18-34 females), which translates to brand loyalty."

On air, Cheron presents the "softer side" of the station's Hip Hop/R&B format, celebrity interviews and community service features such as job openings. She also touts WJLB's "focused" neighborhood-by-neighborhood voter registration drive that helped deliver Michigan to Barack Obama. While Obama's election signaled historic change, Cheron points out that the industry is changing too. "I'm happy to be a part of that history and to take on the challenges of change," she says.

Cheron sees the Jeep Commander – with its comfort (three-row seating), entertainment (Boston Acoustics Premium Sound System and TV) and safety (hands-free communication and rear backup camera) features – as an extension of her role as a broadcaster. "I want my 'command' of the midday airwaves to help listeners relax, feel comfortable and set a positive tone for their workday," she says.

No problem for a Jeep Unlimited Radio Personality!

BRE and select radio stations websites are also hosting an online campaign where you can sign up to win the Jeep of your choice. Go to [www.bremagazine.com](http://www.bremagazine.com) or <http://www.bremagazine.com> to enter to win.

### History Plays Out in 'Cadillac Records' Just Ask the Good Guys

Fittingly, The Good Guys and WVON hosted a special presentation of the film "Cadillac Records" at the Ice Theater in Chicago. The film chronicles the rise of Leonard Chess (Adrien Brody) and his Chicago-based Chess Records, which touted the careers of such artists as: Muddy Waters (Jeffrey Wright), Little Walter (Columbus Short), Chuck Berry (Mos Def), Willie Dixon (Cedric the Entertainer), Howlin' Wolf (Eamonn Walker), and Etta James (Beyonce Knowles).

Following the screening, the Good Guys—Pervis Spann, the Blues Man; Lucky Cordell, the Baron of Bounce; Herb Kent, the Cool Gent; and Richard 'the Best Music of Your Life' Pegue—reflected on the history they knew firsthand about Leonard Chess and his brother Phil who migrated from Poland and ended up making a fortune in the black community with not only Chess Records but also WVON radio. Leonard purchased WHFC in September 1962 for \$1 million, which included an FM signal as a throw-in, which he later changed the call letters to WVON, which signed on the air on April 1, 1963.

Once known as 'The Voice of the Negro,' WVON has evolved into the 'Voice of the Nation,' as the drum major for the African-American community of Chicago where it continues today to provide an interactive forum for Chicago's African-American community as 'The Talk of Chicago.'

### Joe Thomas, 'New Man' With Old Friends



Kedar artist Joe, now calling himself, Joe Thomas with his latest a bum, New Man, proved that and more at a recent performance in Chicago. (l-r) Derrick Brown, PD WVAZ-FM (V103) with recording artist Joe and Carter Russell, independent record promoter—Photo by Jerome Simmons

## Midwest Moments



Brandy at 19th Annual Hob Nobble Gobble at the Michigan State Fairgrounds —Photo by Monica Morgan



(l-r) Clear Channel Chicago' Lisa Dollinger, Chief Communication Officer; Earl Jones, President/Market Manager Chicago; and Angela Ingram, VP Communications Chicago, at the annual Urban League benefit



(l-r) Lyle Logan, VP Northern Trust Bank; Clarence Waldron, Jet Magazine; and Abe Thompson, President Thompson Communications



Martha Reeves and Meadowlark Lemon at The 19th Annual Hob Nobble Gobble at The Michigan State Fairgrounds —Photo by Monica Morgan



At one of Herb Kent's many birthday parties celebrating his 80th birthday, these stalwarts gathered to wish him well. (l-r) Richard Steele, WBEZ-FM; Gene Chandler; Herb Kent, WVAZ-FM; Marshall Thompson, Chi Lites; and promoter Ken Bedford celebrate.



# MIDATLANTIC

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Reporter: **Rosalind R. Ray, Esq.**

## Crawford Speaks Out For Literacy

The National Center for Family Literacy, a non-profit literacy awareness initiative founded in 1989 based in Louisville, Kentucky, has named Grammy-nominated gospel recording artist Beverly Crawford as its national spokesperson for literacy in honor of National Family Literacy Day. Crawford, an artist on JDI Records currently promoting her latest single "He's Done Enough," struggled with literacy in her teens and has become a vocal advocate for literacy programs.

"I'm so excited to enter into such a powerful relationship," exclaimed Crawford. "At one time in my life, I thought the best thing to do was to be silent to avoid the ridicule of others, but now my willingness to share offers hope and inspiration to others. God has opened a great door with this wonderful organization, and I am making myself completely available to help on every level possible."



Beverly Crawford

## 'Every Given Sunday' Tribute Debuted on WKYS



On November 28, Radio One urban WKYS-FM (Kiss 93.9) afternoon drive EZ Street broadcast a tribute song and video in memory of Washington Redskin's #21 Sean Taylor. Street joined with Grammy nominated artist Raheem Devaugh, Anwan Glover (aka Big G of HBO's hit series "The Wire" and NBC's "Law and Order" and founding member of the Backyard Band), Miss Kim (lead female vocalist of Rare Essence) and DC rapper/producer Jamil "Face" Johnson (T-Pain, Raheem DeV Vaughn, Talib Kweli, Gangstarr,

Chuck Brown, Chucky Thompson, Bun B, Wale, Tabi Bonney, Lil Mo, Mya) to create the song "Every Given Sunday" in tribute to the late Sean Taylor, who was inducted into the Redskins Ring of Honor on November 28.

"The idea for doing this song is simple," says Street. "To honor #21 Sean Taylor and to send a message to the community that we must never forget that there is still much work to do to stop the violence in our community. Sean's tragic death acts as a reminder," he adds.

Recorded at Phase Recording & Media Studios in White Plains, Maryland, "Any Given Sunday" also has a music video, produced by award-winning Glightfilms, that also includes former Redskins and Taylor's close friend Lavar Arrington, along with many Redskins fans from the D.C. area. Available on Street's myspace page as a download, the video is a poignant tribute to #21 from D.C. R.I.P.

## DC Flips WPGC 1580 to Big Talker

CBS Radio's WPGC-AM (1580) in Washington, DC flipped to "The Big Talker" with an all-talk format on November 10 at the new call letters of WHFS-AM. The former inspirational talk format had been simulcasting with sister urban WPGC-FM prior to the switch. Cluster VP of programming/station manager Michael Hughes and WPGC operations manager Robert Scorpio are overseeing the new format.

## Marcel Exits Russ Parr

Marcel the Multiple, whose impersonations of such celebrities as Michael Jackson and 50 Cent for Radio One's "Russ Parr Morning Show" has departed the D.C.-based show he joined in 2004. The creator and participant in many of the song parodies, the Phone Tap segment, prank calls and other antics over the past four years on the syndicated show, Marcel originally joined Radio One in 2002, segueing from Dayton where he had handles urban PD and afternoon drive.

## 'You Need It' The Return of D. King

Putting Baltimore on the map, underground rapper D. King is all about "adding some hope to your playlists," he exclaims with his Kanye West-produced "If Not Me, Then Who." "You Need It," the first single from his upcoming 730 Commission/Babygrande album *Wordz of Art: the Life of a Don*, supplies that new hip-hop infusion. Most recently featured on the *Jim Jones Presents: Purple City, Road to Riches*, DK, a Howard University student who was signed to Jay-Z's Carter Faculty when he was 17, is already an established underground presence in what he calls "the middle east coast" with the impressive Kay Slay-hosted mixtape *King Me*.



D. King

## Classic Hip-Hop Alive in D.C.



Slick Rick

CBS Top 40/rhythmic WPGC-FM legend Donnie Simpson donated his personal jacket worn in the movie "Krush Groove" to the recent kick off of the Classic Hip-Hop Concert Series, which featured rappers Slick Rick and Whodini. Founded in 2005 by Adrian "Easy AD" Harris and his business partner, Anthony "A-tone the Hip-Hop Historian" Hovington, a graduate of Duke University with a degree in African-American Studies, Classic Hip-Hop L.L.C. announced the Classic Hip-Hop Series as well as art exhibit that aspires to present and preserve positive aspects of Hip-Hop Culture. Joined by Haywood Donerson, III, CEO of the Donerson Research Group, Inc., the group is intent on also raising money for an exhibit that will feature artifacts from the early days of the hip-hop movement.

"We want people to come out, bring their sons and daughters to experience innovative hip-hop music from classic hip-hop artists such as current VH1 Honors recipient Slick Rick (The Ruler), past recipients Whodini and Kool Mo Dee, as well as Dr. Roxanne Shante, PhD and DJ Tony Tone of the Legendary Cold Crush Brothers, to name a few," explains Harris. "Hip-Hop has come a long way and with this concert series and exhibit opening, we will help bring the culture full circle. We are not just putting on a concert but, raising the funds and awareness to bring this exhibit to life for generations to come," adds Harris.



# MIDSOUTH

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## Rahsaan Patterson Delivers 'The Ultimate Gift' to Dallas



While visiting "The Ride with Doug & Dede" to promote his first-ever holiday CD *The Ultimate Gift*, Rahsaan Patterson poses for a picture with the team: Rudy Rush, comedian, *The Ride with Doug and Dede*; Yolanda Starks White, Executive Producer, *The Ride with Doug and Dede*; Gary Saunders, Operations Manager, K104; Doug Banks, Host, *The Ride with Doug and Dede*; Dede McGuire, Co-host, *The Ride with Doug and Dede*; Rahsaan Patterson; Jawn Murray, Entertainment Correspondent, *The Tom Joyner Morning Show*; Nanette Lee, local personality/comedian; *Ebony Steele*, Co-host, *The Ricky Smiley Show*; Deidre Miles, radio personality, *The Touch*; Lee Bailey, *Radioscope*; Greg Reeves, radio personality, *Radio One*.—Photo courtesy of Lotts Photography

Artistry Records artist Rahsaan Patterson celebrated the launch of his first-ever holiday album, *The Ultimate Gift*, at a special invitation only presentation in Dallas, home of some of his most loyal fans. Miles Ahead Entertainment coordinated the guests who were flown



(l-r) Rudy Rush, *The Ride with Doug & Dede*; Lee Bailey, *EURweb*; Rahsaan Patterson; Dede McGuire, Co-Host of *The Ride with Doug and Dede*; Sheila Eldridge, Miles Ahead Entertainment; Doug Banks, Co-Host of *The Ride with Doug and Dede*, and Torrence Glenn, *BET.com*.—Photo courtesy of Lotts Photography

in and given exclusive tours of Tom Joyner's state-of-the-art studios where his show and "The Ride with Doug and Dede" originate. Rahsaan hosted a holiday reception along with Dede McGuire where toys, books and clothing for children in need were collected as part of his "The Ultimate Gift Toy Drive."

## Shelly Stewart Honored

By Sidney Miller, Jr.

Birmingham's broadcast legend Shelly "The Playboy" Stewart was in rare form for the illustrious tribute in honor of his 41 years of service to the community. The Who's Who of Birmingham and the state of Alabama were in full force for the tribute, thanks to Phil Christian, the executive director of the Mattie C. Stewart Foundation, named for his mother.



(l-r) Stewart's daughter Corlette Stewart, Shelly and Phil Christian



BRE founder Sidney Miller, Jr. with honoree Shelly Stewart

I personally journeyed to the event because of my respect for his contributions to his community and his undying dedication to our industry as a broadcaster. And, on a more personal note, it was Shelly who strongly recommended me for my job as Southeastern Promotions Director for Capitol Records back in 1966 when he was PD and afternoon jock at that time at Atlanta's WAOK. I

had traveled to Atlanta for the interview with Capitol executives and we had stopped by to visit Shelly while he was on the air. I didn't realize it at the time, but his endorsement was key to my getting the position. After we left the control room, he called me back in alone and gave me his business card and told me he had recommended me and that if I didn't get it to call him and he would remove all of their product until they hired me. Fortunately, his recommendation was strong enough.

Stewart's latest venture was parked outside in the parking lot: a specially equipped bus outfitted to make a positive impression on young people to make the right choices in life. Set up classroom style, the bus had a video monitor backed by a black curtain airing different options available to kids who stay in school. And as the adverse options were presented, the curtain dropped to reveal a scaled model jail cell. Stewart says it has been making a powerful impression on young minds and has proven to be a deterrent to kids leaving school. He now has several buses in production to travel around visiting schools.

## KKDA Presents Kwanza Fest

Dallas' Service Broadcasting urban KKDA-FM (K104) and the morning show of Skip Cheatham and Da Playground presented the 18<sup>th</sup> annual KwanzaFest, the largest community cultural event in Texas, on December 13-14. The huge free community event and concert included a health fair, a kids fest and stage shows that included performances from Plies, Jim Jones, Gorilla Zoe, Slim of 112, Bobby Valentino, Jazmine Sullivan, Play-n-Skillz, Baby Bash and Gemini, among others. Attendance was estimated to exceed 50,000.



### New Venom at Chamillitary

The city of Houston will host its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual MLK Grande Parade on January 19, 2009, and, for the first time, the Co-Grand Marshall will be a hip-hop artist. Houston's own platinum Grammy-award winning rapper Chamillionaire will lead the parade, one of the nation's largest MLK celebrations with more than 30 marching bands, emphasizing 2009's theme, "The Color of Unity." And not only will he lead, but also it's his custom car shop Fly Rydes that will be driving the dignitaries and celebrities.

Formerly on Motown, Chamillionaire has announced his new album, his third major label release, will impact in early 2009 on his own imprint, Chamillitary, now distributed through Universal Republic Records. Ludacris is featured on his newest song from the project, "Creepin'" (Solo).

Additionally, as the first multi-platinum Mastertone artist in history, Chamillionaire has retooled his website. [www.chamillionaire.com](http://www.chamillionaire.com) with new contests, official merchandise, performance footage, video blogs, merchandise, and giveaways.

### Trin-I-tee 5:7 Christmas for New Orleans



Music World/Spirit Rising gospel artist Trin-I-tee 5:7 have a special Christmas treat planned with their December 21<sup>st</sup> concert in New Orleans. "This is our gift to the people of New Orleans," says Trin-i-tee 5:7. "We want to share from our hearts the celebration of what Christmas is about, the birth of Christ...love, joy and giving. Caring for one another and sharing in the love of a city that has so very much loved us." The trio selected a church in New Orleans East for the concert specifically to bring focus back to one of the hardest areas of the Crescent City. A portion of the proceeds from the

concert will be funneled back into the local community. This is just another way, the ladies say, of continuously giving back to their community as Ambassadors of the Hope & Triumph Campaign through the group's non-profit organization, Passionately Inspiring Humanity.

They also perform "Get Away," backed by a Ray Chew-led 24-piece orchestra for BET's Celebration of Gospel, which airs on January 25.

### TJMS Gets Lighter

Comedians George Wallace, Sinbad, Gary Owen and Kim Whitley guest host the Tom Joyner Morning Show from the 'red velvet cake' Dallas studios the week beginning December 15<sup>th</sup>. Reviewing the best and worst in Black America, they bring a note of levity to lighten up the holidays. The regular crew returns after the holidays with its "Sail Away Song of the Day" contest promoting its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary Fantastic Voyage, embarking in 2009 from Long Beach, California. The show will broadcast live from Obama's inauguration on the MLK Day holiday.

### Playing in Da Playground At Service Broadcasting Urban KKDA-FM (K104)



Ludacris, whose album, *Theater of the Mind*, was released on IDJMG in November, stopped by service Broadcasting urban KKDA-FM (K104) to talk to PD and morning host Skip Cheatham and the rest of Da Playground in Dallas



Gorilla Zo and Lady Jade at Kwanzaa Fest



Skip Cheatham and Da Playground: (l-r) Skip Cheatham, Fly Ty, Lady Jade, Kevin Hart, Sam Putney, Chris Arnold and DJ Texas Tip



Plies, whose LP *The Realest* releases December 16, and DJ Hollywood



# SOUTHEAST

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Reporter: **Diamond Jim Sears** and **Jammin' Jammie**

## WMBM Welcomes Winans



Marvin Winans Jr. and his wife, Monique, recently stopped in to meet program/music director Greg Cooper at Miami's gospel WMBM-AM (1490) radio station and talk about Winans' latest single, "You Never Let Me Down," which the station was playing. (l-r) WMBM afternoon drive host Jerry Sawyer, Monique Winans, Marvin Winans Jr. and PD/MD Greg Cooper of WMBM (1490 AM).

## V103 Inspires Usher Donation



Usher

Each Christmas season CBS urban AC WVEE-FM (V103)'s top-rated morning team, Frank and Wanda, submit Christmas wishes on behalf of families in need. With today's economy, however, the duo felt they had to do more. So Wanda called on Usher who promptly donated \$20,000, saying, "You can always rely on me, no question. Atlanta has always supported me and it is unspoken for me to help."

While in-studio, Atlanta's Mayor Shirley Franklin recognized

Usher as an Ambassador of Atlanta: "He is amazing. It really shows Usher's compassion and makes me so proud of him. Atlanta is a great place because of people like Usher."

## Babineaux Joins Atlanta's Beat

NFL star Jonathan Babineaux has joined the morning team of Murph Dawg and CJ on Cox Top 40/rhythmic WBTS-FM (95.5 the Beat) in Atlanta. The Atlanta Falcon Allstar Defensive tackle adds regular morning commentary in his segment "In the Know with Babineaux." He will be covering on not only sports, but also current events and music and entertainment news.

## Cox Cuts

Karen Vaughn, APD and midday personality (10am-noon) at Cox urban AC WHQT-FM (Hot 105) is one of the casualties of budget cuts at the station. James T. now covers the whole timeslot from 10am-3pm.

In other cost-cutting moves, Cox Atlanta has totally eliminated its market manager position thereby eliminating a role for Chris Wegmann.

## V103 Middays Still Open

The recent departure of CBS urban AC midday personality Porsche Foxx just before Thanksgiving has still not been filled. CBS had rehired Foxx last July after letting her go in 2005. She had previously hosted afternoons for the station for six years and remains one of the top air personalities in her timeslots.

## Collipark Signs Yung Daze



Yung Daze

Platinum producer Mr. Collipark, aka DJ Smurf) has signed 18-year old South Carolina rapper Yung Daze to his Collipark Music imprint. "This is a blessing for me and my family," exclaims the Greenville native, the new owner of a diamond-studded chain boasting the Collipark Music logo. "I'm happy to be part of one of the world's hardest working and successful music labels."

Production on his introductory mixtape, entitled *Emergency Room*, is currently underway with "Contagious" being the first release.

What struck Mr. Collipark about Daze? "I have a little bit of everything to offer, especially 'real life' situations. It's very lyrical, very raw." Additionally, Yung Daze provides a contrast at Collipark Music. "Although my music is nothing like Soulja Boy's, the fans [of Soulja Boy], can still relate, it's more street and covers all aspects of life."



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# BIG SHOTS

Taxi urban AC KJLH-FM (102.3 radio free) morning co-host Adai celebrated her birthday on December 5th at Club Samba in Redondo Beach with special guests.

MumTaz, Stevie Wonder's son, sings with Montell Jordan the happy birthday song

## Happy Birthday to KJLH's Adai



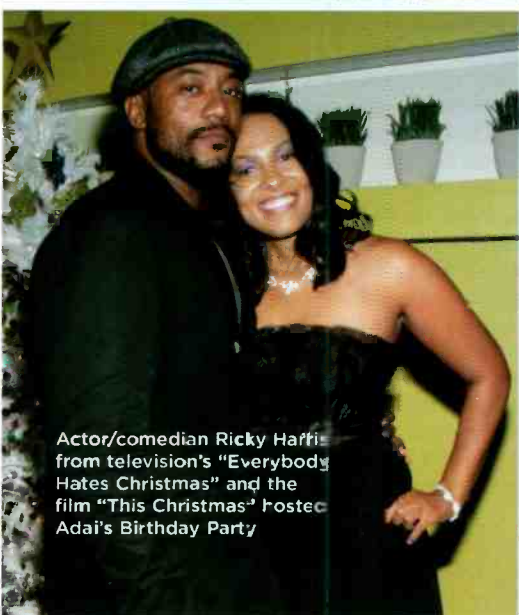
BRE's founder/chairman Sidney Miller, Jr. with Adai



Olympic Gold medalist and former NFL player Ron Brown with Adai



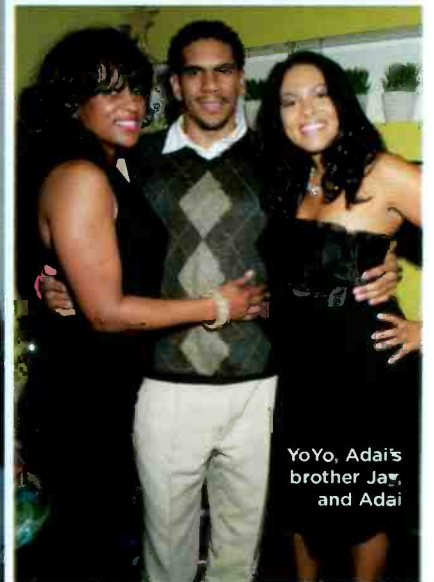
Edmonds Entertainment TV producer Carol Shine and husband Scott



Actor/comedian Ricky Haffis from television's "Everybody Hates Christmas" and the film "This Christmas" hosted Adai's Birthday Party



KJLH Program Director Andrae Russell and YoYo



YoYo, Adai's brother Jay, and Adai



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## Lionel Richie: Yes We Can



Lionel Richie hosted a private meet and greet with staff and listeners of KHHT-FM (Hot 92.3) to promote the "Yes We Can" project on Hidden Beach. (l-r) international artist Andy Madadian, KHHT-FM/Hot 92.3 PD R Dub, KHHT-FM/Hot 92.3 Midday Personality Al B. Sure, Def Jam artist Lionel Richie, Hidden Beach Records General Manager Bruce Walker

## McKnight At Night

With a Christmas album in stores for the holidays called *I'll Be Home for Christmas* on his own Gemini3 label distributed through Razor & Tie, 16-time Grammy-nominated recording artist Brian McKnight, who has been hosting top-rated "The Brian McKnight Show" for CBS Radio smooth jazz KTWV-FM (the Wave 94.7) in Los Angeles for the past two years, is proving diversity is the winning formula for today's times. McKnight, who began his career at Mercury Records where he recorded four albums before moving over to Motown, is currently signed to Razor & Tie and continuing his recording career that has amassed more than 20 million in worldwide album sales.

In 2006, he scored Tyler Perry's "Daddy's Little Girl" and released his latest album, *TEN*. With plans for another album this fall, McKnight jumpstarts 2009 with the original song "Yes We Can" that he composed and performed for the Codeblack/Ebony/Jet partnership on the first full-length documentary about President Elect Barack Obama, "Barack Obama: The Man and His Journey." (see In Other Media)

On the television front, McKnight currently hosts "Soul Session Countdown With Brian McKnight" on BET J. The platinum-selling artist, who has also performed in theater—most recently in "Chicago" last October—also doubles as a special red carpet correspondent for "Extra."

Now, Litton Entertainment has announced that it will syndicate a one-hour late-night talk/variety show with the multi-talented McKnight as the host tentatively titled "McKnight at Night." Scheduled to premiere next fall, the show will feature a variety of live performances from comedians, musicians and other entertainers.



Brian McKnight in the studio with Pat Prescott at KTWV the Wave

## Look Out L.A., Vinny Brown's On the Ground

Veteran programmer Vinny Brown, who has graced the pages of our BRE Cover Story in the past, has taken up residency in Los Angeles. Most recently OM/PD of Inner City Broadcasting's urban AC WBLS-FM and gospel WLIB in NYC, Brown has been consulting Taxi Production's urban AC KJLH-FM in Los Angeles.

Recently named executive VP of the Stevie Wonder-owned station, Brown is not ready to divulge his strategy yet, but it's sure to prove a big lift for the station. The move to the West Coast reunites Brown with morning drive host Guy Black whom Brown directed in the mid-morning spot at WBLs previously.



Vinny Brown

## Blue Note's 70th Anniversary Headlines Portland Jazz Festival

In celebration of its 70th anniversary as a legendary jazz label, Blue Note Records has a myriad of events scheduled for 2009. One is headlining the Portland Jazz Festival February 13-22.

And headlining they will be! Both current Blue Note artists like trumpeter Terence Blanchard, saxophonist Joe Lovano, pianist Gonzala Rubalcaba and vocalists Cassandra Wilson, Dianne Reeves and Parricia Barber will join Blue Note heritage artists like McCoy Tyner, Bobby Hutcherson, Pat Martino and Lou Donaldson over the 10-day festival. Literally, every concert will feature a Blue Note artist. Additionally, seminars and dialogues with Blue Note executives and artists and archival Blue Note film screenings are scheduled.

## Oasis Promotes Ferreri

Riviera Broadcasting smooth jazz KOAS-FM (105.7 the Oasis) in Las Vegas has promoted morning show co-host Carmy Ferreri to APD/MD. The veteran broadcaster has impacted such stations as KRLA-FM in Los Angeles, KZZO-FM in Sacramento and KGGI-FM in Riverside.

According to PD Duncan Payton, "Since his arrival in June, Carmy has made a tremendous impact on the operational side of the Oasis. As the station has grown, it became clear that his passion for the Las Vegas community and his commitment to our listeners makes this a natural move. Carmy's work ethic and positive vibe have made him a popular addition to our company."

Added Riviera Broadcast Group VP/market manager and President of RBG Digital, Dave Presher: "Riviera Broadcast Group is committed to hiring, retaining and promoting the best talent in the marketplace. The energy and enthusiasm that Carmy has brought to our staff has been a very positive force. It's my belief that this promotion reflects very positively on what we're about as a company."

## Norwood Young Crowned King

The Hancock Park community crowned its resident, recording artist Norwood Young, 'King of Hancock Park' with a star-studded gala to celebrate.



Natalie Cole with Norwood  
—Photo by Willie Tassain (323) 232-6391



(l-r) Norwood's mom Betty Young, Norwood Young, his sister Tamleka Gaines and sister Tanya Young Williams  
—Photo by Willie Tassain (323) 232-6391

## California Hall of Famers

"Only in California can we celebrate the legacies of twelve incredibly diverse icons -- from Jack Nicholson to Quincy Jones, Dorothea Lange to Leland Stanford, Theodor Geisel to Alice Waters -- they all have an amazing story to share, as different and unique as California is vast," said California First Lady Maria Shriver. "The California Hall of Fame has become a landmark destination and this year's new and expanded exhibit once again showcases the stories and achievements of these amazing individuals in a more innovative and interactive way."

Created by Shriver in 2006, she and Governor Schwarzenegger recently opened the 2008 exhibition of the Sacramento museum announcing this year's inductees: musician Dave Brubeck, actor and activist Jane Fonda, author Theodor "Dr. Seuss" Geisel, sculptor Robert Graham, record producer Quincy Jones, fitness guru Jack LaLanne, photographer Dorothea Lange, architect Julia Morgan, actor Jack Nicholson, scientist Linus Pauling, California founding father Leland Stanford and chef Alice Waters. The Spirit of California medal was presented on December 15 to all new inductees in a formal ceremony, with the exhibit opening to the public the next day.

Some of the unique aspects of the California Hall of Fame exhibits are the large interactive presentations. Quincy Jones will be highlighted in a multi-media listening station; a piano will play Dave Brubeck classics. "In the new exhibition space, we can provide a more comprehensive view of the California Hall of Fame inductees," said Deputy Director Amanda Meeker. "It allows the display of large items that we didn't have space for in previous years, and creates opportunities for visitors to touch, listen, and play as they discover the contributions of these remarkable individuals in exciting ways."

## FloRida At Adult Oscars

Grammy-nominated Carol City native FloRida will be performing at the "Oscars of Adult," the 26th annual AVN Adult Movie Awards, scheduled for January 10th at the Mandalay Bay Events Center in Las Vegas. "We're extremely pleased that Flo Rida will be performing at this year's show," said Paul Fishbein, president of AVN Publications, who expects 8,000 attendees. "Since we started the Awards in 1983, the goal has been to make it as exciting and entertaining as any of the mainstream Hollywood awards shows; I think with adding a performance by Flo Rida to the mix you can see that we're making good on our vision."



FloRida

## KKSF Smooth Jazz Holiday Sampler

Commemorating the 20th anniversary of World Aids Day on December 1, San Francisco's Clear Channel smooth jazz KKSF-FM (103.7) released its annual sampler, Volume 19, of smooth jazz holiday titles. Promoting the benefit CD on its website, KKSF asked listeners to join it in a special tribute to individuals infected and affected by HIV/AIDS by purchasing the newest volume of smooth jazz.

## Lamont Dozier Honored

TAXI, the independent music website, recently honored legendary award-winning songwriter/producer Lamont Dozier with its Living Legend Award during its 12th Annual Road Rally Convention on November 7-9 in Los Angeles. More than 3,000 TAXI members convened for seminars, mentoring and open mic performances that were highlighted by the annual awards. Dozier, who most recently contributed to Solange Knowles' latest album and has been working with Kanye West, the Eurythmics' Dave Stewart, Black Eyed Peas members and Joss Stone, also serves as the first artist in Residence at USC, where there is an annual scholarship given in his name in perpetuity.

## Hawkins Explore Music & Arts Ministries

Award winning gospel pioneers Edwin and Walter Hawkins recently sponsored a three-day workshop, "Exploring the Music & Arts Ministries," at the Antioch Church of Long Beach, California. Songwriter Pastor Calvin Bernard Rhone was among those joining in the presentation of vocal technique, choir decorum, songwriting and the business of gospel music.

Daryl Coley, along with the Devine Purpose Chorale, performed at the closing, recording a live CD, with a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the CD going to assist Coley's foundation "Heart of Hope" which was established to help raise funds to assist in his much needed kidney transplant as a result of diabetes. Other guests included Jesse Campbell, Omarosa, Tiny Lister, Lester Barry and Desiree Coleman-Jackson.

The Southern California Chapter of the Edwin Hawkins & Walter Hawkins Music & Arts Love Fellowship Conference sponsored the workshops that lead up their much larger yearly National Conference now in its 28th year.

## Enjoying the Big Top



Actresses Judy Pace and Beverly Todd were among the celebrities joining the stars at Hollywood Park when the UniverSoul Circus came to town.

—Photo by Willie Tassain (323) 232-6391

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# GO WITH THE FLO

By Syndicated Columnist  
FLORENCE ANTHONY

**U**sher and his wife Tameka have a new addition to the family: a baby boy. Says Usher's rep: "Usher and Tameka Raymond welcomed their second son, Naviyd Ely Raymond, on Wednesday, December 11, weighing 5 pounds, 13 ounces. Tameka and the baby are doing fine." Naviyd joins older brother Usher Raymond V, who turned one on November 26. Tameka also has three sons from two previous relationships. Usher was reportedly at his wife's side during the delivery.

While Bruce Willis and Ice Cube are still circling a big screen version of "The A-Team," Mr. T supposedly won't sign-on unless he's given more than a cameo role.

Tongues are wagging that Sean "Diddy" Combs shot a video for his new cologne I Am King as an audition tape to play the first Black James Bond. The video was shot in the south of France and cost about \$1 million to make. In it, His Diddyness drives a water ski wearing a tuxedo and flies on a helicopter sur-

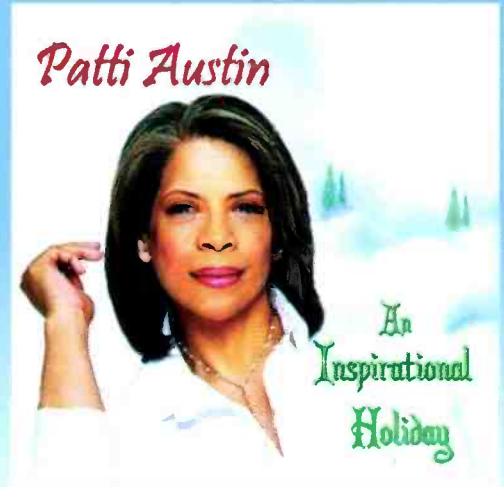
rounded by scantily clad women.

Grammy-winning vocalist Patti Austin ushers in the holiday season with the sumptuous, spiritually moving three-song digital-only EP, *An Inspirational Holiday*, on Concord Records. Unlike most Christmas albums that feature rearranged carols, classic songs associated with the season and winter-themed fare,

Austin takes a decidedly different tack by celebrating the true essence of Christmas. Donald Trump doesn't just have the golden touch for business—he also has a heart of gold. The real-estate mogul has been housing Jennifer Hudson and some of her relatives at the Trump International Hotel & Tower free of charge. He told *People*: "She's a great girl. And we're protecting them well. They are very safe." Jennifer has been seeking refuge at the Trump Holding since her family members were murdered in Chicago on October 24.

In an effort to save a generation of at-risk children, Oprah Winfrey & Friends of Susan L. Taylor gathered to celebrate Susan's 37 years at *Essence* and raise funds for the National CARES Mentoring Movement (National CARES) at Espace in New York City. The event featured special performances by Yolanda Adams and Donnie McClurkin.

Rumor has it that The Roots are retiring from touring in order to become the band for Jimmy Fallon when he takes over Conan O'Brien's spot. NBC has no official comment on the matter. The Roots as a house band on TV? Sounds cool to me.



## Diamond Empowerment Fund

By Doré Marcelle Madere

Russell Simmons' Diamond Empowerment Fund (D.E.F.) held its first major fundraiser, "Dallas Rocks 2008," at Dallas Cityplace. Celebrity participants Simmons, Emmitt and Pat Smith, Earvin "Magic" Johnson and Terrell Owens helped to raise more than \$320,000, the net proceeds of which will go to D.E.F. beneficiary, the Community and Individual Development Association (CIDA City Campus) in Johannesburg, South Africa. During the event, Simmons presented Magic Johnson with the Humanitarian Empowerment Award and Eva Longoria Parker received the Lonestar Empowerment Award.

The Dallas event was followed by another in NYC at the new environmentally conscious Greenhouse Club, co-hosted by Simmons, LL Cool J and David Blaine. Liya Kebede, Tatianna Ali, Mario and former NFL player and ESPN commentator Ray Crockett were among those moved to a frenzy by DJ Cassidy who spun for the New York movers and shakers purchasing diamond and sapphire bracelets for loved ones, donated by Zales.



Earvin "Magic" Johnson speaking, (l-r) Olympic track star Michael Johnson, Emmitt Smith, Terrell Owens and Russell Simmons

"We are thrilled with



Dallas Cowboy's Emmitt Smith and former NFL star Ray Crockett, Simmons, Terrell Owens, Olympic track star Michael Johnson and Magic Johnson attend Dallas Rocks Event.



Dallas Cowboy's Emmitt Smith with wife Pat and Russell Simmons

the outcome of these events," declared Simmons. "In these tough economic times, it was a blessing for our young charity to raise a substantial amount of money to support D.E.F.'s beneficiary, the CIDA City Campus. I am inspired everyday by the work being done at CIDA, the only free college in South Africa, and by my experience with those young people who do everything for the school but teach and then take what they learn back into their communities. It's a business model we'd like to replicate throughout Africa."

# LUDACRIS

Theater Of The Mind

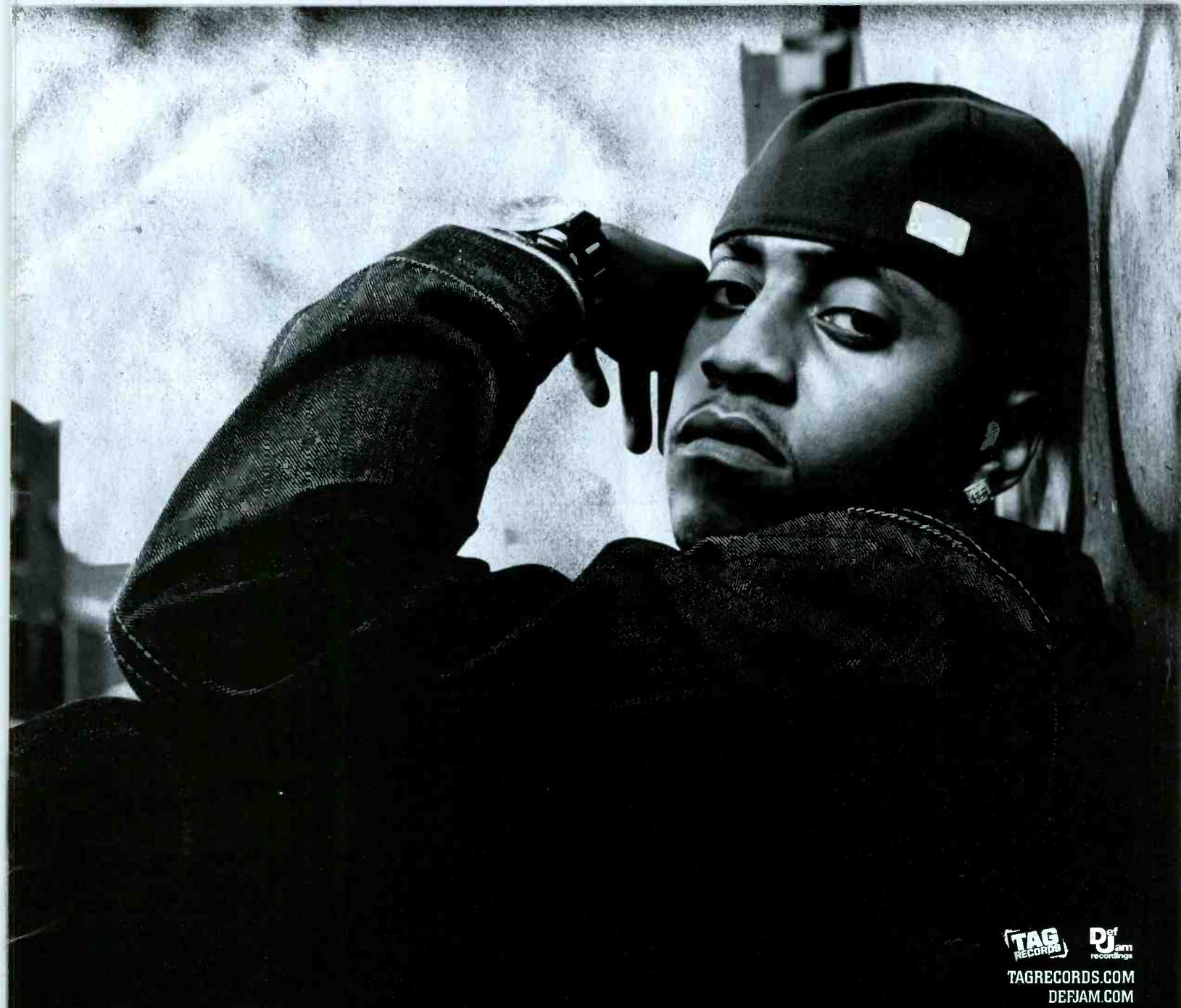


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