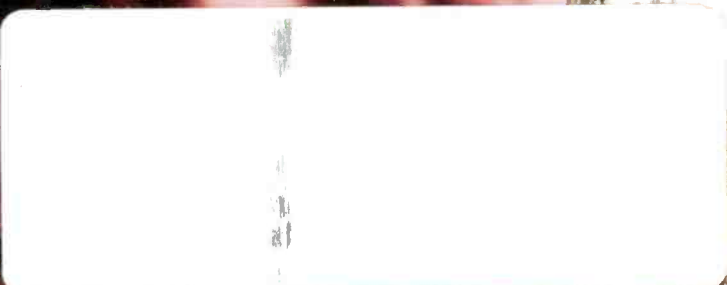


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CONTENTS

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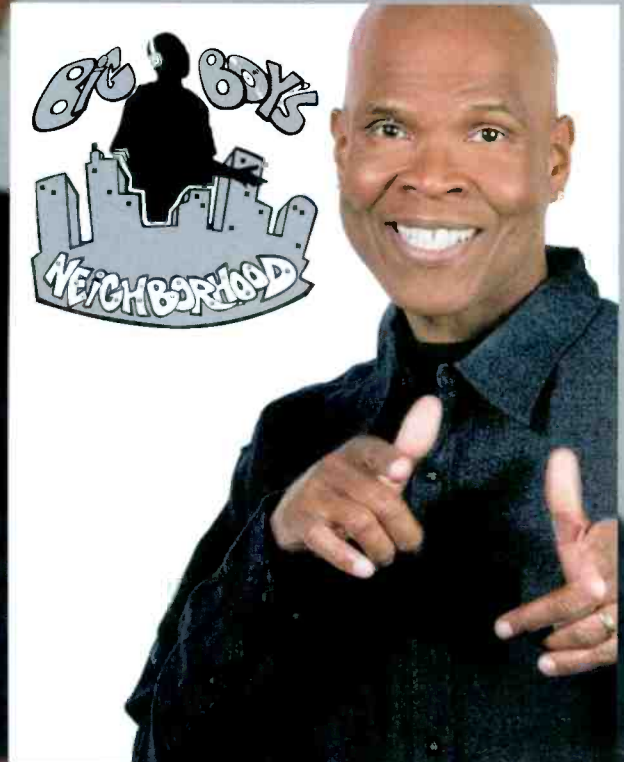
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BIG BOY MAKES HISTORY...AGAIN THIS TIME IT'S NATIONAL

A West Coast icon in the hip hop and radio industry with numerous accolades including three Marconi Awards from the National Association of Broadcasters and a member of the National Radio Hall of Fame and a published author, Big Boy has been making unprecedented history since he began his career in Los Angeles more than 20 years ago. Now his #1 Hip Hop radio show, Big Boy's Neighborhood, which just moved to Real 92.3 a year ago, has gone national as of March 28 as Premiere Networks adds the show to its lineup of nationally syndicated programs, making it available to Urban Contemporary and CHR Rhythmic affiliates from 5am to 7pm local time on weekdays and weekends. Along with his on-air team of Natalia Perez, Louie G, Ayyde the Hottay and DJ VickOne, Big Boy exclaimed, "Together, we've been building something special over the past 20 years and the team at Premiere Networks values and respects that. I'm excited wo work with them and take the show to even greater heights!"



Cover Story ARETHA MAKES HISTORY AGAIN	18
Feature L.A. REID SHARES SOUL	10
Gospel Connections TYSCOT REIGNS SUPREME	14
In Other Media	
MICHAEL JACKSON'S History Making Journey Continues	22
BREfix BMI GOSPEL TRAILBLAZERS	28
Major Key Alert DJ KHALED 14 MILLION FOLLOWERS STRONG	35
Spotlight AJ SAVAGE THE MAN BEHIND the MUSIC	38
Regions MA, MW, SE, NE, MS, W	30

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PUBLISHER'S NOTES



By
Sidney
Miller, Jr.
Founder/Chairman

MAKING HISTORY Again...and Again...and Again...

As BRE marks a milestone in its own 40 years of chronicling an industry rich in musical and cultural history, it is with great pride and gratitude that I have been present, many times in the room or backstage or in the control room, to witness history being made firsthand. It has been my great fortune to not only be a voice for the radio and music industry for the last 40 years but to also have been allowed to share the struggles, doubts and misfortunes that we've overcome as well as the successes and victories and to recognize and honor those drummers among us.

When I called Aretha to wish her happy birthday, I realized I was so lucky to be able to speak personally to an artist whose voice has brought queens and kings and presidents to tears.

What an honor to personally know and be able to share this true Queen of Soul's voice in BRE.

Aretha has made history so many times, and she still continues to amaze us. I look forward to her next history making move. Happy birthday!

But it's more than just God-given talent that makes the greats! Just ask Aretha, a consummate artist who has honed and molded her talent; it takes hard work, dedication, attention to detail and passion. Knowing how to get up when you're down. Performing amazingly even when you're sick. And feeling the music...truly feeling it so much that you make others feel it too.

Ask L.A. Reid what it takes to join the greats. Clearly a success himself, Reid's helped so many develop and find their true potential. He may not sing from the stage but as he says in his new book, "Sing To Me..." he knows how to make the music sing to us all; he knows how to find the magic.

Or check in with DJ Khaled, who has the ear of some 14.3 million millennials, motivating them to pursue greatness within themselves. "Do You," he proclaims daily on his Snapchat app or "We the Best" has been his mantra for more than two decades.

A.J. Savage, the man behind the music, explains that watching and helping an artist evolve from raw talent to the Grammys is pure pleasure. "It's never boring, always exciting, watching an artist go from ground zero and become a force in music culture."

Just think, The Fugees celebrated its 20th anniversary of The Score at BMI's Annual How I Wrote That Song panel where Wyclef Jean explained, "The Fugees makes us feel something...Albums that last are the things that make you feel something."

On another front, the 2 Live Crew celebrates its 30th anniversary since its RIAA gold certified debut in 1968 on Luke Skywalker Records with plans to tour all over the world bringing its Miami version of "Ain't no party like a 2 Live Crew party."

Tiger Woods, who has recently slipped from the top position in the golfing world, is not seen in the press as much as he was in the past, but his history-making achievements prompted more young golfers to take up the sport than ever before. That impact is beyond the scope of his personal scores in the game; it's on generations to come.

I'm reminded of those who've set the bar so high like Maurice White, Natalie Cole, and Allen Toussaint, shown here at his last concert in D.C.

Kicking off 2016 with a 50-year anniversary of the NFL Superbowl that featured the likes of Lil Wayne in some of its top commercials and a commanding Beyoncé and Bruno Mars halftime show, the year of the Monkey is already marking a multitude of achievements and history making moments. And I, like A.J. and L.A., look forward to the next talent who will open the door.



(l-r) Dr. Vincent Roux, former head of Howard University School of Medicine, with Allen Toussaint and BRE founder Sidney Miller, Jr.

MAKING HISTORY

American Music Taps Carrington As Honorary Member



(l-r) Charles Garrett, President of the Society for American Music; Terri Lyne Carrington; Roger Brown, President of Berklee College of Music; and Larry Simpson, Provost of Berklee College of Music. —Photo by Michael Broyles

Three-time GRAMMY® Award-winning recording artist and Berklee Global Jazz Institute Zildjian Chair in Performance, Terri Lyne Carrington was recognized as this year's Honorary Member at the 42nd Annual Conference of the Society for American Music. Carrington's unparalleled contributions to American music conferred a life-long membership into the Society. She joins a distinguished group of luminaries including Pharoah Sanders, Loretta Lynn, Oscar Peterson and Max Roach, among others.

Michael Jackson Estate Makes History Again

Citing that the sale of Michael Jackson's 50% portion of the ATV catalog that he purchased in 1985 for a net acquisition cost of \$41.5 million to Sony Corp, for an estimated \$750,000 million "further validates Michael's foresight and genius in investing in music publishing...and is still considered one of the smartest investments in music history," his estate's co-executors



John Branca and John McLain added via a statement that "this transaction further allows us to continue our efforts of maximizing the value of Michael's Estate for the benefit of his children." The pending deal was announced as a memorandum of understanding and is expected to be concluded later this year.

The Estate will still retain the 10 percent interest it holds in EMI Music Publishing, also partnered with Sony Corp., as well as Mijac Music, which houses the songs written by Michael and his masters as well as other writers. Sony/ATV already own 29 percent of EMI Music Publishing and serves as its administrator. Commented Sony Entertainment CEO Michael Lynton, "This acquisition will enable Sony to more quickly adapt to changes in the music publishing business, while at the same time continuing to be an unparalleled leader in the industry and a treasured home for artists and writers. All of us at Sony look forward to continuing to work with the Estate to further Michael Jackson's legacy in many different ways."

MusiCares MAP Fund Honoring Smokey Robinson

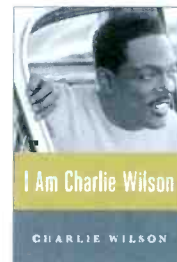
The 12th annual MusiCares MAP Fund® tribute concert will honor legendary GRAMMY®-winning singer/songwriter Smokey Robinson at the Novo (formerly Club Nokia) in Los Angeles on May 19. Robinson will receive the Stevie Ray Vaughan Award in recognition of his dedication and support of the MusiCares MAP Fund as well as his commitment to helping others with the addiction recovery process. All proceeds will benefit the MusiCares MAP Fund, which provides members of the music community access to addiction recovery treatment regardless of their financial situation. Performers include GRAMMY-nominated artists El DeBarge and Kem, and multi-GRAMMY winners Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds and Cee Lo Green. Robinson himself will give a closing performance with his touring band. Cedric the



Entertainer will host the event. Berry Gordy serves as Honorary Tribute Chair.

"During the course of his 60-year career, Smokey's stellar repertoire of extraordinary songwriting combined with his unique voice and dynamic performances continues to thrill sold-out audiences and fans worldwide," said Neil Portnow, President/CEO of MusiCares® and The Recording Academy®. "He is also a passionate advocate for the MusiCares MAP Fund, and our work to help members of the music industry facing addiction. It is a genuine pleasure to honor a true musical icon and a courageous supporter of the recovery community."

'I Am Charlie Wilson' Reaches Best Seller Status



Eleven-time Grammy nominee, Charlie Wilson can now add Best Selling author to his list of credits. His memoir, "I Am Charlie Wilson," released in June 2015, is a *New York Times* Best Seller and *Washington Post* Best Seller and

received an honorary mention for non-fiction from the Black Caucus of American Library Associations, Inc.

Kennedy Center Appoints Q-Tip First Artistic Director for Hip Hop Culture

"We are proud and excited to be incorporating Hip Hop Culture into our artistic and educational programs during the 2016-2017 season," affirmed Deborah F. Rutter, President of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. "In our role as a national cultural institution, we feel it is vital to recognize all of the performing arts in our programming. The history of Hip Hop and its development as an art form, and the complexity and importance of its impact on the arts landscape driving social and cultural awareness, has inspired us to have a more formal connection with our ongoing programming. By launching this series, we strive to spotlight these powerful traits through each program and to make them part of the Kennedy Center fabric as we look into the future."



To lead the Hip Hop Culture season, MC/rapper and record producer Q-Tip joins the

Kennedy Center as its first-ever Artistic Director for Hip Hop Culture. An active member of Universal Zulu Nation, the first Hip Hop organization which was founded in the 1970s by Afrika Bambaataa, Q-Tip embodies the multifaceted nature of the culture with a history of seminal work and longstanding relevance in the community.

“With Hip Hop constantly changing and evolving, it is easy to forget the history and legacy that precede it,” stated Q-Tip, about his new mission. “I want to begin at the beginning of the Culture to help people see its roots, better understand its present, and responsibly create its future.”

Ray Charles Night at the White House

The Smithsonian saluted Ray Charles at President and First Lady Obama’s last series of “In Performance at the White House” by PBS. And as President Obama remarked at the event, “It is fitting that we pay tribute to one of our favorites, and one of the most brilliant and influential musicians of our times: the great genius himself, Mr. Ray Charles.” With Charles’ family present among many distinguished guests



and performers paying tribute that included Yolanda Adams (once a background singer for Charles), Leon Bridges (who donned one of Charles’ actual sports coats), Andra Day, Anthony Hamilton, Brittany Howard,

Demi Lovato, Sam Moore, Jussie Smollett, The Band Perry, Usher, and Rickey Minor conducting the Christian McBride Big Band, the 90-minute concert tribute was simulcast by TV One in partnership with PBS which marked PBS’ 56th production in the series’ 38-year history.

Continued the President, “Ray Charles had the rare ability to collapse our weightiest emotions into a single note... He couldn’t see us, but we couldn’t take our eyes off him... But perhaps his greatest achievement was in showing all of us that it is our incredible diversity of music, a chorus of cultures and of styles, that truly makes ‘America the Beautiful.’”

Rejoice Soul Food Expands Footprint to Africa



In another history-making move, the U.S. 24-hour Gospel music radio network, Rejoice Musical Soul Food, is now being distributed by Viewsat’s free-to-air service on Satellite SES5 to some 786 million on the African continent. An Africa-USA Hip-Hop and R&B channel that plays a 24-hour Contemporary Urban format is also being distributed says CEO Mike Chandler, who added, “We are taking good music, thought-provoking programming, and information” to the African continent.

Burton, Sanders and Shepp Join Jazz Masters

BMI is proud to congratulate its affiliates Gary Burton, Pharaoh Sanders and Archie Shepp, who each were deservedly honored as a 2016 Jazz Master by the National Endowment for the Arts at the John F. Kennedy Center’s Concert Hall in Washington, DC. The NEA Jazz Masters



award is the highest honor that the U.S. bestows on jazz musicians and includes a cash award of \$25,000, as well as an award ceremony and free celebratory concert in tribute to the newly named Jazz Masters’ contributions to the art form. Also honored with the A.B. Spellman NEA Jazz Masters Award for Jazz Advocacy was Executive Director of the Jazz Foundation of America, Wendy Oxenhorn, who has contributed significantly to the appreciation, knowledge, and advancement of jazz.

Preserving History at the Library of Congress

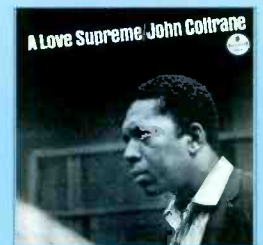
Under the mandate of the National Recording Preservation Act of 2000, the Acting Librarian of Congress David S. Mao, with input from the National Recording Preservation Board, announced the selection of another 25 recordings that are more than 10 years old and culturally, historically or aesthetically significant to be added to the National Recording Registry. Included in this year’s selections are Gloria Gaynor’s “I Will Survive,” The Supremes

“Where Did Our Love Go,” produced and written by Holland-Dozier-Holland, The Impressions (with Curtis Mayfield, Sam Gooden and Fred Cash) of “People Get Ready,” John Coltrane’s “A Love Supreme,” Clarence Williams’ Blue Five’s “Wild Cat Blues” composed by Thomas “Fats” Waller, Santana’s album *Abraxas*, two versions of “Mack the Knife” that include one by Louis Armstrong, Blind Willie McTell’s “Statesboro Blues,” Clifton Chenier’s Zydeco album *Bogalusa Boogie, Original Soundtrack from A Streetcar Named Desire* by composer Alex North, who is credited as being the first to integrate jazz into a major motion picture score, and a recording of the fourth quarter of Wilt Chamberlain’s historic 100-point NBA game in 1962 of the Philadelphia Warriors vs. New York Knicks.

Another recording preserved this year is from Chicago radio station WMAQ that broadcast “Destination Freedom” from June 1984 to August 1950. As described by the Library of Congress, the program presented “not only the accomplishments of black Americans, but also the obstacles they overcame and the prejudice they endured. All 97 original episodes were written by Richard Durham, who had been an editor at the *Chicago Defender* newspaper. Unusual for the time,

black actors were given most of the show’s lead roles, not just comedic or subservient ones. Most episodes are fictionalized profiles of notable black Americans such as Harriet Tubman or Jackie Robinson. This two-part “Prejudice Series” is different — both entirely fictional episodes are searing indictments of racial prejudice in America. In “Execution Awaited,” Durham uses the literary device of personification by making Race Prejudice a character put on trial for his crimes. The second installment, “A Garage in Gainesville,” is told through a character called Joe, an ordinary Southern white man who wants to open a garage with Buddy, a talented black auto mechanic. As the story unfolds, Joe learns the tragic consequences of the racial prejudice to which he’s turned a blind eye all his life. Unvarnished racial epithets give the dialogue realism.”

These recordings will be housed in the Library’s Packard Campus for Audio Visual Conservation in Culpeper, Virginia, a state-of-the-art facility that was made possible through the generosity of David Woodley Packard and the Packard Humanities Institute, with benefaction from the U.S. Congress.



“ It’s second nature. I wake up, I listen to a song, and then I brush my teeth. Music enriches my day. I always notice that my mood changes if there’s no music. When there’s music, I come alive. ”

—L.A. REID

L.A. REID

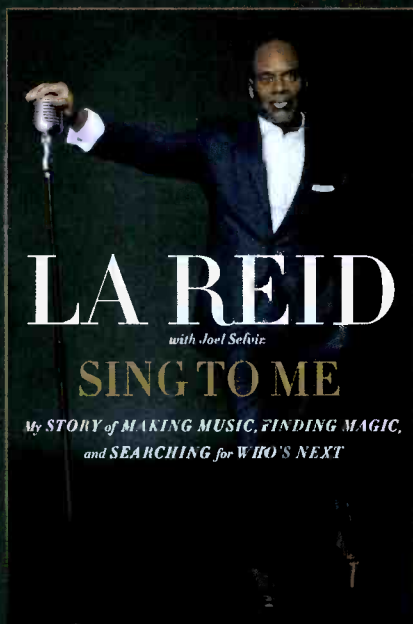
SHARES HIS MUSICAL SOUL IN

‘Sing to Me: My Story of Making Music, Finding Magic, and Searching for Who’s Next’

Making history again and again and again and again...has been the result of “Record Man” Antonio L.A. Reid’s passion for music. As he explains in his new Harper Collins book, “Sing To Me: My Story of Making Music, Finding Magic, And Searching for Who’s Next,” he’s “pure music.”

“It’s second nature. I wake up, I listen to a song, and then I brush my teeth. Music enriches my day. I always notice that my mood changes if there’s no music. When there’s music, I come alive.”

It’s that musical passion that has directed his life course from Cincinnati to Atlanta to L.A. to NYC to the spiritual place where magic happens. From a drummer for the Deele to LaFace to Island Def Jam Music Group, to Arista, to Epic to X Factor judge, it’s always been about



the music. That’s his driving force.

And that is what has made him the driving force in launching and shaping the history-making successes over the past 25 years of his career in the music industry. From Mariah Carey’s 10x Platinum comeback album *The Emancipation of Mimi* to the signing and nurturing of then 14-year old Justin Bieber, Reid has been about the music. He is behind the success of some of music’s biggest artists. From Usher, Kanye West, Toni Braxton, Pink, Jay Z and Rihanna to Bieber and Meghan Trainor.

A three-time Grammy-winning producer himself, Reid is the consummate “music man,” acknowledged by such industry stalwarts as Clive Davis, Doug Morris, Dick Griffey, Clarence Avant, Jimmy Iovene...you name it. If L.A. is

excited about a project, you can bet it's going to be a success.

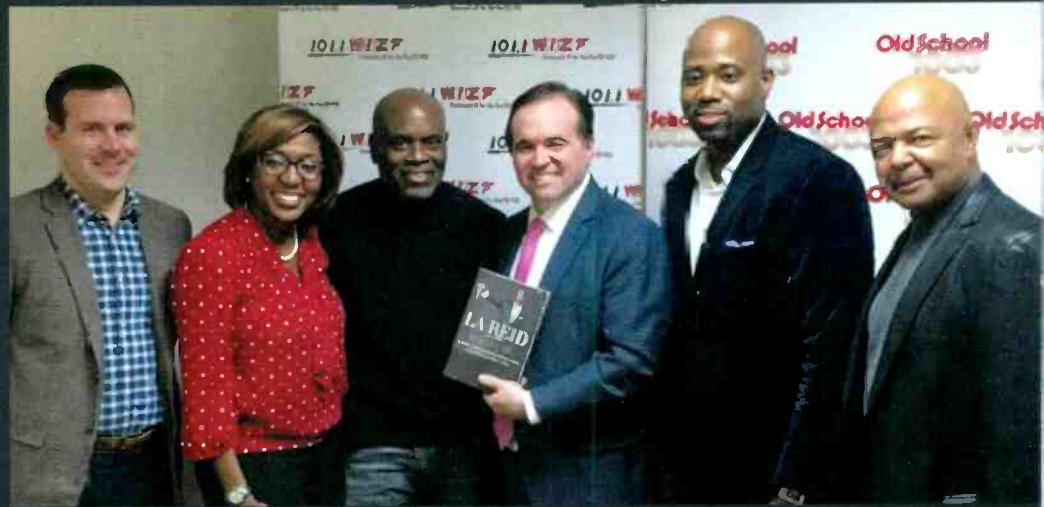
But there have been moments... there have been doubts... times when he lost his way. Reid recounts the paths that took him from his core, often crediting his early partner Babyface with putting him back on track. He joined with his musical and soul partner at the Grammy Museum during Grammy week for a book signing and introduction of his book where the two were able to respond to questions about their careers. And in his book, he explains that when he was a judge on "X Factor" for two seasons, he seemed to lose his sense for talent and subsequently his confidence in himself.

"It took Babyface to set me straight," he writes. "Kenny knows me better than anyone. He is more like a brother than a best friend, and he has been since the day that he walked out in that studio from singing "Slow Jam" with Midnight Star. We became brothers that day and we've been brothers ever since.... And what he told me was that I was just going through the motions...but it has nothing to do with who you are and your soul."

Basically, Babyface was telling me there was "no point to making soulless music."

Reid takes us back to his mother's garage in Cincinnati, to his old house in Atlanta and to his office across the halls at Def Jam where he used to feel excited about music. "I started out as someone who loved and cared for music and artists and tried, sometimes desperately, to make music that I could be proud of."

And it was Michael Jackson who brought the magic back to him, he explains, after convincing John Branca to let him put together a new Jackson album from unreleased



(l-r) Radio One WIZF-FM (101.1 the Wiz) Station Manager Mitch Galvin, Cincinnati President Pro Tem Yvette Simpson, L.A. Reid, Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley, Radio One Operations Manager Kenard Karter, and Radio One On-Air Personality Lincoln Ware welcomed Reid back to Cincinnati for the official proclamation of L.A. Reid Day in his hometown

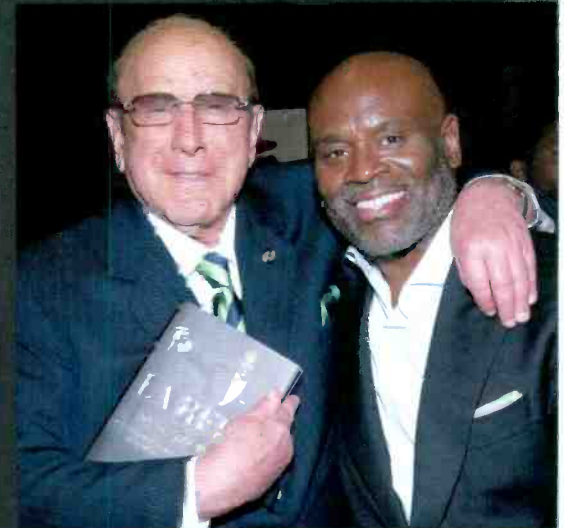


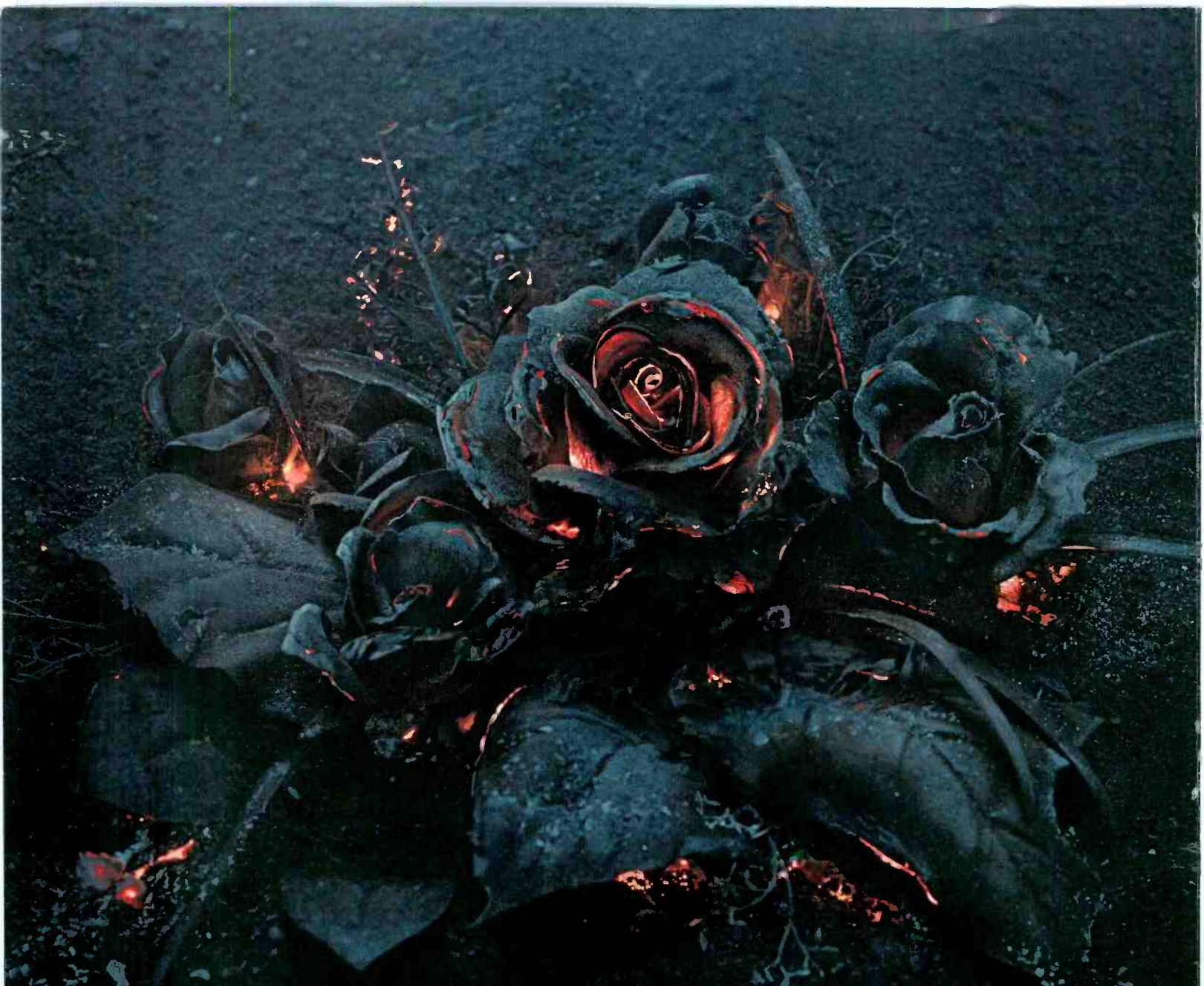
tracks. "Listening to every demo that Michael Jackson ever made was like being left alone with the crown jewels." The project also brought him back to Babyface and a song, "Slave To The

Rhythm," that he and Kenny had done on Michael some 25 years earlier. "The album sold three million almost as soon as it came out." L.A. was back!

As Reid has traveled the country on his book tour from V103 in Atlanta to 102.3 in D.C. to his hometown of Cincinnati where Mayor John Cranley presented him with the key to the city, his passion for the music is unmistakable. And his book, although a story peopled with superstars he has helped create and his making of music, is also one of inspiration and finding the magic that ignites us. And, as he explains, "I do believe that the greatest acts

that I will work with have yet to walk into my door...I'm always looking...with great hopes that today will be that day that they walk in."





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STELLAR GOSPEL MUSIC AWARDS**
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MARCH 12TH – APRIL 10TH

Tyscot Records Reigns Supreme at 31st Stellars



Big winner Anthony Brown and Group therAPY with 10 Stellars

A jubilant Scott performed his own "Feel Good" from the compilation album of the same name celebrating Tyscot's 40th anniversary that included many of the label's award-winning artists including Anthony Brown and Group therAPY, Casey J, John P. Kee, Deitrick Haddon and Shirley Murdock. Scott has also launched the label's own hip hop division called Tyscot LOUD with its own lifestyle and social media hashtag #LOUDMovement. The first project is the *Tyscot LOUD Gold Mixtape* hosted by DJ Wade-O that introduces its first eight newly signed artists: Canino, T.S.O., Dale Evans, B the Messenger, Prodigal Son, Amour, Kaleb Starr, and Royalty.

Explained Brian Scott, President of Tyscot Music + Entertainment, "For 40 plus

Dr. Leonard Scott, co-founder of Indianapolis-based Tyscot Records, really knows how to celebrate the gospel label's 40th anniversary. Try sweeping the 31st annual Stellar Awards with his artist Anthony Brown and Group therAPY taking top place in 10 categories. The group dominated, winning for Artist of the Year, Song of the Year, Group/Duo of the Year and CD of the Year, Contemporary Group/Duo of the Year and Contemporary CD of the Year with Brown honored individually as Producer of the Year, Male Vocalist of the Year, and Contemporary Male Vocalist of the Year.

"This has literally been the most overwhelming experience in my life," exclaimed Brown, who opened the show performing his #1 charted single "Worth" and his latest release "Bless The Lord" from his album *Everyday Jesus*. "I love gospel music and I love the Stellar Awards and I've always wondered what it would feel like to be on that stage. I never dreamed that when I got the opportunity, it would be like THIS. It is a dream come true and is proof that God remembers ..."

But that wasn't all... The label's 28-year old elementary teacher named Casey J won Best New Artist for her debut solo album *The Truth*, performing "Fill Me Up" and "I'm Yours" at the Stellars that brought the audience to its feet.

And the legendary Rance Allen Group that emerged from Stax Records of the '70s claimed two wins for Quartet of the Year and Traditional Group/Duo of the Year, with *The Live Experience II: Celebrating 40 Years of Music and Ministry*.



Tyscot new artist Bri Babineaux on the red carpet



The Rance Allen Group won 2 Stellars



Casey J named New Artist of the Year

years, Tyscot has built a brand which is synonymous with the best in gospel music. We are excited to expand into the Christian Hip-Hop genre and know that Tyscot LOUD will be synonymous with the best in this musical arena.”

With new artists like Bri Babineaux, who was discovered from her YouTube rendition of a Tonex song, who just released her new album *Keys To My Heart* to Chicago native Tiff Joy, who won honors at BMI's Trailblazers of Gospel Music for her song "Amazing" recorded by Ricky Dillard & New G, the Tyscot label is abounding in talent. Tyscot kicked off its "New Artist on the Block" tour on March 27th in Atlanta to introduce some of its new artists with its own New Artist of the Year Casey J hosting.

No wonder Dr. Tyscot and company returned from the Las Vegas Stellar Awards energized and innervated. They feel good, celebrating 40 years of life changing music.



(l-r) Stellar Gospel Music Awards VP Erma Gray Davis, Hillary Clinton, Stellar Gospel Music Awards Founder Don Jackson and Dr. Leonard Scott.

"I know this is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and sing in it."
 —Democratic Presidential Candidate Hillary Clinton

Stellar Awards Get Presidential Surprise

BY CAROL OZEMHOYA

An unexpected highlight at this year's 31st annual Stellar Awards which returned to the Orleans Arena in Las Vegas was the surprise appearance of Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, who walked out on stage during the Gospel Radio Awards on Saturday afternoon. Later announced as the winner of the Nevada Democratic Caucus, Clinton spoke briefly thanking Gospel radio and commenting that the show "lifted her spirits."

The annual awards show, produced and created by Don Jackson for Central City Productions, welcomed comedian and syndicated radio personality Rickey Smiley



Hosts Sherri Shepherd and Rickey Smiley



Donald Lawrence performs O'Landa Draper tribute



Dr. Bobby Jones

and actress and TV personality Sherri Shepherd as hosts for the show that salutes the best in gospel. TV One premiered the show on Sunday, March 6 but the two-hour taped telecast is also being broadcast in syndication on 150 radio



Jekalyn Carr pays heartfelt tribute

stations in more than 125 markets throughout the country from March 12-April 10.

Special honors were presented to Tramaine Hawkins, Yolanda Adams, Marvin Sapp and Jonathan Slocum. Dr. Marabeth Gentry and the



(l-r) Jonathan Slocumb, Yolanda Adams, Tramaine Hawkins, Marvin Sapp and Don Jackson

Thomas A. Dorsey Foundation were presented with the Thomas A. Dorsey Most Notable Achievement Award and the Dr. Bobby Jones Legend Award went to Willie Joe Ligon. The James Cleveland Lifetime *Continued on page 18*



Patrick Riddick & Choir perform

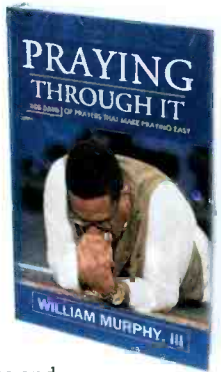
Achievement Award went to O'Landa Draper.

Gospel Radio Awards went to WPRS-FM (Praise 104.1) in Washington, D.C. as major market; WCAO-AM (Heaven 600) in Baltimore for large market; WPZZ-FM (Praise 104.7) in Richmond for medium market and WTMG-AM (1300) in Trenton as small market. The Internet station of the year award went to All Nations Radio, and the Gospel announcer of the year was Tracy Bethea McGill III from WHAL in Memphis.

Other winners outside the Tyscot Records sweep and those identified in this section included Denise Trotman & Conni Treantefeles for Recorded Music Packaging of the Year; God's Gift & Soldiers Youth Choir for Youth Project of the Year; Derek Minor for Rap Hip Hop Gospel CD of the Year; J.J. Hairston & Youthful Praise for Contemporary Choir of the Year; and Tina Campbell for Traditional CD of the Year and Traditional Female Vocalist of the Year.

Bishop Murphy: A Man of Action in 'Demonstrate'

"God's given me something fresh to say, and I believe it's going to consistently encounter His Presence," says Grammy nominated singer, songwriter and bishop William Murphy, III, who performed during the Stellar Awards Pre-Show in Vegas. Moving the crowd with his performance of "Arise (You Are Good)" from his new EP *Arise* which contains three tracks from his upcoming fifth album *Demonstrate* on RCA Inspiration, Murphy is also the vocalist behind the Shekinah Glory praise and worship anthem "Praise Is What I Do" and "It's Working" from his 2013 Grammy-nominated album *God Chaser*.



Founder of the dReam Center Church of Atlanta along with his wife, Pastor Danielle, Murphy has added another dimension to his career with the release of his book "Praying Through It: 365 Days of Prayer That Make Praying Easy." The daily devotional is filled with prayers of hope, strength and grace, designed to keep you moving forward one day at a time.

RCA Inspiration Proved To 'Wanna Be Happy'

The Sony Music distributed inspirational label, formerly known as Verity Gospel Music Group, RCA Inspirational celebrated two wins at the Stellers with Kirk Franklin claiming his now more than 40 Stellar Awards for Urban/Inspirational Single or Performance of the Year for "Wanna Be Happy." The Fo Yo Soul label head also closed the Stellar Awards

with a medley performance of hits he will be performing on his upcoming 20 Years in One Night Tour.

Winning for Special Event CD was the label's best-selling series compilation *WOW Gospel 2015*.



Marvin Sapp was named to this year's Stellar Honors Class, while newcomer Travis Greene performed during the show and Jason Nelson presented the Albertina Walker Female Vocalist of the Year Award. Greene and Nelson are both on promotional and performance tours to promote their latest projects. Greene, who lives in Columbia, SC, marks his first major label debut with *The Hill*.

Full Tank for Ben Tankard

Gospel/Jazz instrumentalist Ben Tankard won his 14th Stellar Award for Best Instrumental CD of the Year for his Full Tank 2.0 on his own BEN-jamin' Universal Music label. The former NBA basketball player won his first Stellar in 1989 as New Artist of the Year. Now some 30 years later, Tankard, dubbed the 'Godfather of Gospel Jazz,' is a celebrity endorser of fashion designer Robert Graham, a licensed pilot who flies private planes to all his concerts and stars in the Bravo TV reality series "Thicker Than Water: The Tankards," of which season three premiers on Easter Sunday, March 27. He has chronicled this career in the self-help book "The Full Tank Life: Fuel Your Dreams, Ignite Your Destiny," releasing this August on Hatchette Publishing.



Pastor Charles Jenkins: 'Just To Know Him'



Charles Jenkins & Fellowship Chicago won Traditional Choir, Choir of the Year, and Charles Jenkins and the Spin Singers won Music Video and Charles Jenkins for Traditional Male Vocalist

Chicago's Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church celebrated its 65th anniversary last November with a soul-stirring service led by Pastor Charles Jenkins and first lady Dr. Tara Rawls Jenkins and continued that celebration at this year's Stellers as Charles Jenkins & Fellowship Chicago won four of the eight Stellers for which it was nominated: Traditional Choir of the Year, Choir of the Year; Charles Jenkins and the Spin Singers for Music Video of the Year; Charles Jenkins for Traditional Male Vocalist of the Year.

Claiming the most played gospel song of 2015 for "#War," the Motown Gospel artist proves he's still "Amazing," the breakout radio hit from 2012 that set him and the choir on the national radar. A recent sold out tour with Michelle Williams and Byron Cage didn't hurt any either. His latest single is "Just To Know Him."

Tracy Bethea, Radio's Inspiring Win

Memphis radio veteran Tracy Bethea claimed Radio Announcer of the Year at this year's 31st Annual Stellar Awards, and it wasn't her first time taking home this honor. The repeat winner is Gospel Programmer as well as host of her own show on iHeartMedia's inspirational powerhouse in Memphis, WHAL-FM (Hallelujah 95.7). Known initially as the "voice" for AM 1070 WDIA, Memphis' legendary heritage station, Bethea was also selected by the Stellars to be its voice for this year's radio show.

Over her 30-year career, the radio personality and music programmer has also launched several radio stations including the 24-hour Gospel station KWAM 990 The Light. And it was Bethea who was tapped by then Clear Channel to launch the current 95.7 Hallelujah FM, the all day Gospel-inspiration station in Memphis, that has continued to rack up awards since its launch in 1981.

"Besides being the epitome of class, kindness and inspiration, Tracy Bethea is the epitome of radio," commented Donald Lawrence upon her promotion to head of gospel programming for WHAL.



Anthony Hamilton Teams With The Queen of Gospel



Tracy Bethea recently welcomed Anthony Hamilton to the iHeartMedia's WHAL-FM (95.7 Hallelujah) studios in Memphis to talk about his recording of "It's Alright, It's Ok" with the reigning Queen of Gospel Shirley Caesar.

Tasha Cobbs: Claims 3 Stellars for 'One Place Live'



Iyanla Vanzant presents Tasha Cobb Stellar Award

One of the members of Bishop Murphey's dReam Center Church in Atlanta was this year's Stellar Award winner for Praise and Worship CD of the Year, Contemporary Female Vocalist of the Year and the Albertina Walker Female Vocalist of the Year, Tasha Cobbs. The Motown Gospel artist, who now serves as one of its team pastors, narrates a behind the scenes look at "Being Tasha Cobbs" airing on Centric TV on April 2 and is currently on her One Place Live Tour with comedian Marcus D. Wiley, Kierra Sheard, Jonathan McReynolds and Bishop William Murphy, where they've already sold out in Greensboro, NC.

Hezekiah Walker Makes It 'Better'



Hezekiah Walker, newly signed to Entertainment One Music, performed his newest hit "Better" from his upcoming 15th album at the Stellars and also joined with Donald Lawrence and Ricky Dillard for a tribute to O'Landa Draper.



Choir Storm Series

Stellar Award winning producer and radio announcer Zak Williams, newly named Music Director for the Wilmington Chester Mass Choir, has launched the Choir Storm Live, a series of free concerts featuring dynamic choirs from the Raleigh and Philadelphia areas. An offshoot of the two-hour Choir Storm Radio Show he hosts along with Henry "Mr. Who Dat" Haley, the series of concerts is intended to provide a viable outlet for choirs to continue to thrive.



Carole King



ARETHA

AT THE KENNEDY CENTER HONORS MAKING HISTORY...AGAIN!

BY CAROL OZEMHOYA

With probably the most recognizable voice in history, ARETHA can sing it all... from church spirituals and R&B hits to pop favorites and even operatic classics.

A feat she's proven time and time again. In her stunning performance of "Ava Maria" in 1998 during the Grammys, standing in for an ailing Luciano Pavarotti,

she hit every note with clarity and such power, there wasn't a dry eye in the place by the time she finished.

And to this day, she is asked to sing the classic, most recently for the Pope.

That's the thing about Aretha... she's been in front of them all: Presidents, Kings, Popes, Prime Ministers and

thankfully, all of us.

Her voice emotes such power and emotion that an entire world responds.

Most recently at the Kennedy Center Honors, her rendition of her hit "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman" in tribute to its co-writer Carole King who was being honored that night, brought

“I still have a lot of music in me. I would like to do some things with Stevie, George Benson, and there are others I’d like to work with.”



First Lady Michelle Obama and President Barack Obama

tears to the eyes of the leader of the free world. And not only were President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle so moved, but Carole King was absolutely overwhelmed, the audience entranced and the viewers who later saw the CBS broadcast equally enthralled.

When Aretha sings, Aretha moves you. She made history that night, signifying again why she carries the mantle of “Queen of Soul.”

“What a great night,” she recalls in an exclusive interview with BRE from her home in Detroit, Michigan. “I performed there many times. I sang for Marion Anderson first... then Marion Williams of Stars of Faith... then Lionel Hampton... and this was my fourth appearance,” explains Aretha, a 1994 Kennedy Center honoree herself. “The response was unbelievable. That was in the top three of my career, and I have had many great nights, but that was the icing on the cake.”

According to Aretha, honoree Carole King didn’t know Aretha was going to perform, much less that she was going to sing one of the songwriter’s biggest hits.

“She didn’t know I was going to be there until I walked on stage. That song was written by her and husband Jerry Goffin. They brought the song to me when we were recording in the old Atlantic Studios in New York City, and when I heard it I loved it.”

Adds Aretha in a sassy yet so Aretha tone... “I like things natural myself.”

“Natural Woman” went on to top U.S. charts as well as all over the world. The year was 1967 and the first lady of Detroit had already made her mark well before then.

continued on page 20





In fact, Aretha had been recording since 1956, and by 2012, had charted 88 times, according to Record Research. That number now stands at 112 charted hits.

No one has even come close to her history-making achievements. The numbers are staggering:

- 41 studio albums**
- 6 live albums**
- 45 compilation albums**
- 131 singles**

Of those, 13 albums have gone gold, five platinum and one double platinum.

She's also appeared on recordings with other artists, such as the Eurhythmics, Mariah Carey, Mary J. Blige, George Michael, Tony Bennett and icon Frank Sinatra.

Her latest album, *Aretha Franklin Sings the Great Diva Classics*, gave her the freedom to sing some of her own contemporary favorites. On that album, she covers Adele's "Rolling in the Deep," giving it her own signature, "the Aretha version."

Clive Davis joined in birthday wished to Aretha at the Ritz Carlton

"I think Adele is a very good artist," explains Aretha. "She's an excellent writer, and she has a kind of different story, one that you don't hear every day. I like her writings. She has great hooks, and she's doing wonderfully well."

Many of the other songs included on that project, which was recorded with Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds, Aretha says she has bought as a consumer. Included are "I Will Survive," which she actually turned into a mashup with Destiny's Child's "Survivor," creating a new classic, "the Aretha version," now a gold stamp of history.

"It's a very easy song to sing," she says of the Gloria Gaynor hit. "I just had fun with it."

"I still have a lot of music in me. I would like to do some things with Stevie, George Benson, and there are others I'd like to work with." Some of her favorite artists to listen to include Usher, Fantasia and classical singer Barbara Hendricks, she confides.

As she prepares for her upcoming concerts, she explains, "I am doing all of the hits in the concerts and some new things

the audience has not heard. I love them all or I wouldn't be doing them: 'Respect,' 'Share Your Love With Me,' 'Daydreaming,' 'Find Me An Angel' ... the million sellers. I like opening with "I Knew You Were Waiting" that George Michael and I did."

Then, there's her birthday celebration—she turns 74 on March 25—an event she enjoys sharing with those around no matter what city she's in.

On her preferred method of travel, Aretha honestly declares, "I have enjoyed my custom bus. It has everything in it that I want...TV, video, everything. And when I am traveling, I can get off the bus and sightsee and shop and I get to see a little more of America than if I were flying. There was a time that all I could see was the back door of the hotel and the airport... I like to sightsee in different cities."

Indeed, don't doubt this lady's love for America. She is always quick to step up to the plate when someone needs a helping hand, whether it's through the Red Cross or right near her own backyard.

She recently recorded a public service announcement in support of Detroit's

Receiving Honorary Doctorate from Yale University

Performing at memorial service for her dad, Rev. C.L. Franklin



Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, where she has performed a number of times, and which has been in danger of closing.

She is involved in assistance to help the citizens of nearby Flint. At first, she was going to put up a number of citizens in a hotel.

“The idea was to provide hotel rooms for three nights – for 30-40 people,” she explains. “My assistant and two other ladies from church got set up to register and screen applicants. But only a few people showed up. When we tried to figure out why, it turned out to be a matter of transportation.”

Aretha was not daunted. “We called the mayor’s office and got the information as to the best way to help and where we could send a check. This type of crisis just shouldn’t be happening in this day and age in America,” she avows.

And look for the undisputed Queen of Soul to add her soul signature to a new line of food she’s working on with a food manufacturer to for her own line of homemade dishes.

“I am in negotiations with a food group. It’s not final,” she explains. “But I am going to offer some great dishes and it will be my recipes. I love to cook when I have the time so I have some family recipes as well as dishes I have created on my own. I am a super cook. I am very good,” she reports.

With her new health regimen, she watches what she eats and includes exercises in her plan. “I have a beautiful regimen of walking and exercising and getting the proper rest and following a diet as well,” Aretha says as to how she stays fit. “I really don’t feel any different than I did at 53 or 63.”

Her family also has a history of long life. “My grandmother lived to her mid ‘80s and she didn’t have a wrinkle at all. I guess I do have super genes. She barely had a line in her face. She was also a very Christian woman and very devout.”

That strong faith remains integral to Aretha’s life. She stays very active in her church. “I customarily donate to the food banks in Detroit and the ministries. I also donate to individual churches as well as attending when I can,” she explains.

When Aretha has down time, she enjoys watching soap operas, with “The Young and the Restless” and “The Bold & Beautiful” as her favorites. She also likes to “doodle” on the piano and write.

And of course there’s shopping... “I love shoes!”

Her amazing legacy spans an incredible six decades, taking her from the 20th to the 21st century, from her first recording as a teenage gospel star, to her current RCA Records release, *ARETHA FRANKLIN SINGS THE GREAT DIVA CLASSICS*. Over the years, she has worked with a number of labels, including Atlantic, Columbia, Arista and RCA.

“I’m looking for a deal now for Aretha Records,” she explains. “A fresh team...new people, new energy new everything,” she reveals.

There are no guarantees in the music industry. Make sure you surround yourself with the best people out there. Look at the artists who are successful and see who their advisers and managers are, and get them on your team.”

Or the advice she delivered to American Idol contestants, “Stay true to yourself and you’ll go far.”

The recipient of the U.S.A.’s highest civilian honor, The Presidential Medal of Freedom, 18 and counting Grammy Awards including the Grammy Lifetime Achievement and Grammy Living Legend awards, the National Portrait Gallery’s “Portrait of a Nation,” among countless other accolades, this timeless artist continues to move audiences the world over, whether in the pews of her Detroit



Willie Wilkerson, Mrs. Eric Holder, Aretha, former Attorney General Eric Holder, Rev. Jesse Jackson, and friend



Greeting then First Lady Hillary Clinton

“I’m also looking for a deal for my grandson Jordan who is a very good writer and producer.” There were also rumors that her granddaughter Victory is quite talented, but Aretha reports that she’s not quite sure being in the music business is what she really wants to do.

Her advice for anyone who wants to get into the music business: “I would tell them that the competition in the music industry is extremely high and that the first thing they should do is finish their education so that they have something to fall back on.

church or onstage before the President of the United States. Even Jeop gave her props at this year’s Super Bowl 50 where it premiered a 60-second commercial entitled “Portraits” that included an image of Aretha as the commercial espoused, “Kept the company of Queens.” Dubbed the “Greatest Singer of All Time” by *Rolling Stone*, this consummate artist continues to make history, breaking barriers and setting thresholds that continually move the bar higher and farther.

To ARETHA...all R-E-S-P-E-C-T!

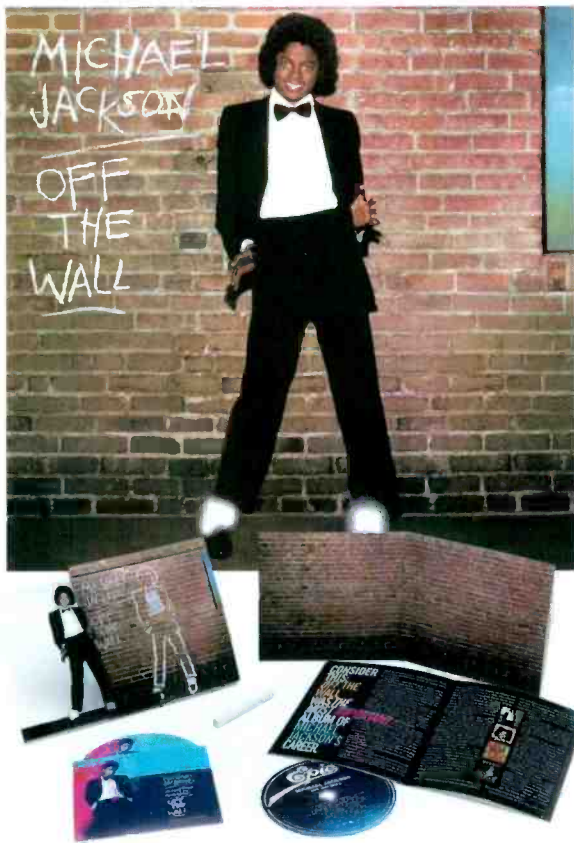
POTUS in Detroit joined by Aretha and her sons Kecal Cunningham and Eddie Franklin, her former manager Ted White and cousin Brenda Corbette

Gospel artist Dorothy Norwood joined Aretha in Memorial Service to her father Rev. C.L. Franklin and her brother Rev. Cecil Franklin



INOTHERMEDIA

Michael Jackson's History-Making Journey



On February 5, Showtime premiered the astounding documentary “Michael Jackson’s Journey from Motown to Off The Wall” produced by Spike Lee and the two co-executors of his Estate John Branca and John McLain, that included a wealth of archival footage, including material from Michael’s personal archives, interviews with contemporaries like Quincy Jones, Greg Phillinganes, L.A. Reid and writer Steven Ivory and family members and Michael’s own taped comments that illuminated Michael’s rise to fame to becoming the King of Pop with his iconic release of Off The Wall at age 20.

The album heralded Michael’s emancipation as a singular musical force and creative visionary, smashing the ceiling on record sales for black artists and literally inventing “modern pop as we know it” stated the Rolling Stone. The album’s first single, “Don’t Stop ‘Til You Get Enough” marked his first Grammy and first single to hit No. 1 in the U.S. and internationally as a solo artist. Three more singles followed that to the top, marking another historic achievement as the first solo artist to have four singles from the same album peak inside the top 10. As of 2014, the album had sold more than 30 million copies worldwide, laying claim to being one of the best-selling albums of all time.

The Estate of Michael Jackson and Sony Music’s Legacy Recordings have since released an exclusive CD/DVD and CD/Blu-Ray bundled edition that includes the documentary, the 1979 album and videos of The Genesis of OTW and “Don’t Stop” live performance from the documentary in another history-making move.

Miles Ahead

The Miles Davis film “Miles Ahead” premiered at South By Southwest and included a panel discussion. Grammy winning artist Robert Glasper scored the soundtrack and also produced the Miles remix album *Everything Is Beautiful*, which will be released May 27 to tie in with Miles’ 90th.

Bekow (l-r) Erin Davis (son of Miles); Don Cheadle who stars, co-wrote and directed the film, and Vince Wilburn, Jr. (nephew of Miles)—Photo by Earl Gibson



Miles Davis (Cheadle) rode around Cincinnati in his green Jaguar

—Photo by Brian Douglas/Sony Pictures Classics



Miles Ahead On Track

Premiering in Cincinnati where the entire film was shot in 2014, the Miles Davis promised film “Miles Ahead” opens in the city on April 22, after its openings in New York and Los Angeles on April 1. Herbie Hancock, Bill Evans, Paul Chambers, Wayne Shorter, Gil Evans and Tony Williams are portrayed in the film by local and regional musicians. Joshua Jessen from Clifton portrays Bill Evans and bassist J.T. Thigpen of Madisonville plays Paul Chambers. Kentucky native Emayatzy Corinealdi plays Miles’ first wife Frances in the Sony Pictures Classic that stars Don Cheadle, who also co-wrote and marks his directorial debut.

Saints and Sinners Big Bounce

As Bounce TV celebrates the network’s highest debut with its new drama series “Saints and Sinners,” Entertainment One Music has released the accompanying soundtrack, a star-studded lineup of new songs called *Saints & Sinners Original Soundtrack From Season 1*. Deitrick Haddon and Big Boi, Erica Campbell and cast member Keith Robinson, Lecrae and JohnTa Austin, Kelly Price, Jeezy and “The Voice” finalist Koryn Hawthorne are among the collaborations included on the Season 1 album. Campbell, Haddon and Price are also slated to appear on the show this season.



WGN's 'Underground' Score Mash Up From Kanye West to George Gershwin

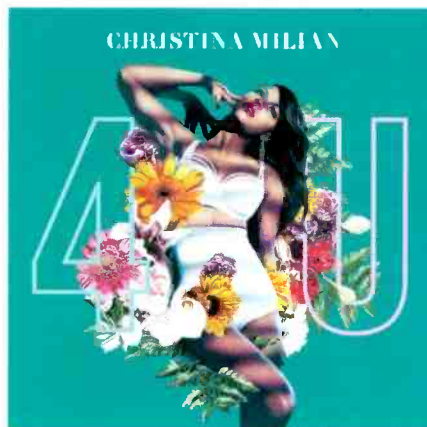


(L to r) Executive producer John Legend and the cast of *Underground* Amirah Vann, Aldis Hodge, Alano Miller, Jurnee Smollett-Bell, Jessica De Gouw and Christopher Meloni

Tribune Media Company's WGN America reports that its scripted original series "Underground" "shattered records as the most-watched program in nearly 18 years on the network," trending on Twitter in its premiere night as the second highest trending topic of the night. Executive produced by John Legend and his Get Lifted partners Mike Jackson and Ty Stiklorius, who also oversee all the musical elements of the show, "Underground" is a 10-hour-long-episode series that relates the 1857 story of the escape flight and fight for freedom and was filmed in Louisiana on former slave plantations and in old slave quarters. With the quest of being contemporary and yet period specific, the music veers from Kanye West's "Black Skinhead" to a children's choir singing George Gershwin's "Summertime" from "Porgy & Bess." Explains Legend, "Using contemporary music takes it off the museum wall and makes it feel urgent and necessary." Emmy-Award winning composer Laura Karpman and Grammy winning artist Raphael Saadiq were charged with creating the score which varies from the bass and drums added to the show's opening theme, "Heaven's Door," co-written by Legend, to the spiritual "All God's Children Got Shoes." Saadiq says his approach was "living with each character." As series creator Misha Green described it, "1857 isn't so different."

Christina Milian Turned Up

Plotting a secret plan to return to their native planet, Magenta and her brother Riff Raff, set the tone for "Rocky Horror," FOX's next sequel of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" airing this fall. And cast as Magenta is the multi-talented Christina Milian, most recently seen in the FOX sitcom "Grandfathered" and her own reality show on E!, "Christina Milian Turned Up." Now signed with Young Money Entertainment, Milian released a teaser of her upcoming fourth studio album in November titled *4U* with singles "Like Me" featuring Snoop Dogg and "Do It" featuring Lil Wayne, following up with the video for the cut "Liar" currently at digital retailers or at her website where one can also find her specialty Viva Diva Wines and We Are Pop Culture.



Dr. Dre's Vital Signs

In extending the music reach of the Apple brand, look for the debut of a new six 30-minute episode series featuring Dr. Dre called "Vital Signs." Co-founder along with former Interscope label head Jimmy Iovene of Beats, which was bought by Apple in 2014, Dr. Dre is expected to not only star in the series but to also executive produce. The scripted show is Apple's first foray into original programming. Described as semi-autobiographical,



Dr. Dre

"Vital Signs" is being produced by music video director Paul Hunter under his Eye Candy banner along with Aaron Ginsburg and William Green and Robert Munic, co-executive producer of "Empire" who is also writing all six episodes. Dre, who just celebrated his 51st birthday in February and who will be inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame as a member of N.W.A. this spring, has a legendary resume of rap productions including D.O.C., Ice Cube, The Firm, Snoop Dogg, Mary J. Blige, Eve, Busta Rhymes, Michel'le and N.W.A.'s now classics. According to Larry Jackson, who leads Apple Music's content, this is a logical extension of both Dr. Dre, who debuted as the host of Apple Music Beats 1 Radio Show in 2015, and the Apple Music brand

Hip Hop Podcasting



Sharitha Knight and Leigh Savidge

S. Leigh Savidge, Xenon Pictures founder and Oscar nominated co-writer and executive producer of "Straight Outta Compton," joined the PodCastOne family to continue his delivery of the untold stories from hip hop culture. "Straight Outta...The Podcast" debuted in February with NWA mentor Alonzo Williams, followed by segments with Arabian Prince and Suge Knight's ex-wife Sharitha Knight. Savidge first entered the Podcast arena last year with his special on "Murder Rap: Inside the Biggie and Tupac Murders." Savidge also authored the

book, "Welcome To Death Row: The Uncensored Oral History of Death Row Records in the Words of Those Who Were There."

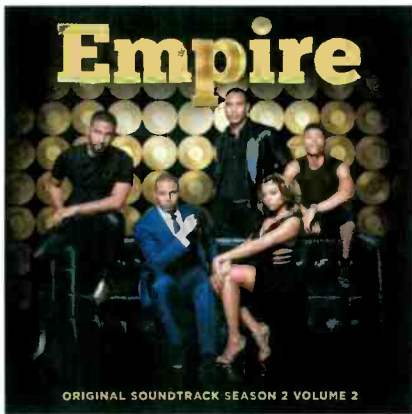
Podcastone Executive Vice President of Content Development Mike August welcomed the weekly podcast, "We are very excited to have one of the Oscar nominated writers of "Straight Outta Compton" in the person of Leigh Savidge joining our Podcastone family with never-before-heard interviews with the artists, producers and promoters that both created and drive the hip-hop music business to this day."

Documenting The Art of Organized Noize



Organized Noize celebrated the release of its documentary, "The Art of Organized Noize" which debuted on Netflix on March 22, in Atlanta with the Director of the Mayor's Office of Film and Entertainment Chris Hicks surprising the ON trio--Rico Wade, Sleepy Brown, and Ray Murray--with the key to the city. Among those joining in the celebration were Organized Noize Manager Seventy 2 Music's Orlando McGhee, the night's hosts Grammy award-winning Kawan "KP" Prather and BMI's Catherine Brewton, Outkast's Big Boi, Goodie Mob's Big Gipp, Dungeon Family's Big Rube and Backbone, Tristin "Mack" Wilds (Red Tails), Real Housewives of Atlanta Sheree Whitfield, actress Jasmine Burke (Ride Along), actor Jason Weaver (Let's Stay Together), actress Terri J. Vaughn (The Steve Harvey Show), Real Housewives of Atlanta guest-star Tammy McCall Browning, Entertainment Execs Keinon Johnson and Shanti Das (who is featured in the documentary), and producer Bangladesh, among others. Shown l-r: Rico Wade, Ray Murray, Jasmine Burke, Rico's Mom, whose house functioned as the first Dungeon Family Studio Space, and Sleepy Brown.—Photo by Prince Williams/ATLPics

Empire Back: Never Let It Die



The popular Fox TV series "Empire," already renewed for a season 3, returned for a second season on March 30 with a Columbia Records *Empire: Original Soundtrack, Season 2, Volume 2*, releasing April 29 featuring never-before-heard songs from upcoming episodes as well as "Never Let It Die," by Jussie Smollett and Yazz, which debuted on "American Idol."

Among this season's newcomers are rapper Xzibit, who joins the cast as a nemesis of Terrence Howard's Lucious Lyon. Xzibit plays a small time record label owner/drug dealer-gun runner Leslie "Shyne" Johnson, who is described as "100% wolf and 100% gangster" and feels

disrespected by the music industry as a whole and Lucious Lyon specifically.

Sponsors have teamed up with the series in a variety of ways. PepsiCo, already a sponsor, joined in the quest to find the next great artist to be on "Empire" showcasing the final four at foxempireartist.com. The contest hit some 15 cities and received some 6,000 auditions. Said PepsiCo VP Consumer Engagement Adam Harter, "We're excited to be working with—the hottest show on television today." Cover Girl's in the game too with a limited-edition product collection and four new beauty looks inspired by the show's leading ladies on how to #GetThatGlam.

Mariah's World Has E! Positively Giddy

"We haven't seen a star of her level and her history," exclaims Jeff Olde, E!'s executive vice president for program development, regarding the upcoming 8-part docu-series called "Mariah's World" now in development. But as Mariah Carey, who maintains veto power over final footage, proclaims, "I refuse to call it a reality show." The show, expected to air later this year, is currently in production by Bunim/Murray Productions, the same company that produces "Keeping Up With The Kardashians," but, according to Jeff Jenkins, executive vice president for programming and development, this show will be shot differently and more like a documentary. Expect footage from her residency show in Las Vegas at Caesar's Palace but not anything exploitative says the 64-million-selling artist whose 2002 appearance on MTV's "Cribs" showing off her TriBeCa penthouse established an almost cult following.

Lee Daniels Projects May Boycott Georgia Filming

Dubbed "Star," an "Empire" spinoff by Lee Daniels that will follow three women played by newcomers Jude Demorest, Ryan Destiny and Brittany O'Grady as they try for their break in the music industry is in the works. Queen Latifah is slated to star as the owner of an Atlanta beauty salon who becomes surrogate mother to the three while Benjamin Pratt takes on the role of a talent manager intent on reclaiming his reputation in the music industry with filming slated for Atlanta.



Lee Daniels

Currently in pre-production on a Richard Pryor movie starring Mike Epps, Oprah Winfrey, Kate Hudson and Eddie Murphy scheduled to start filming in Atlanta later this year, Daniels has taken a vocal position against Georgia's pending bill HB 757, however, that would permit faith-based groups and organizations in the state to discriminate

based on sexuality. Joining him in pledging to pull out production if the bill is not vetoed are film producers Harvey and Bob Weinstein, along with Disney, Time Warner and Tyler Perry, among others.

Another project in the works by Daniels is a documentary on the Apollo Theater, credited with launching careers of such artists as Billie Holiday, James Brown, Diana Ross, Michael Jackson and Luther Vandross, among others at its famed Amateur Night. Being produced by White Horse Pictures, the documentary intends to cover the acclaimed theater's history from its early beginnings in 1934 to present day.

THE INTERNET

“GIRL”

PRODUCED BY
KAYTRANADA



“IF THEY DON'T
KNOW YOUR WORTH
TELL 'EM YOU'RE MY GIRL...
AND EVERYTHING YOU WANT
IS YOURS...”

FROM THE GRAMMY NOMINATED ALBUM

EGO DEATH

NAMED ROLLING STONE'S BEST 20 R&B ALBUMS OF 2015

EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS
**MATTHEW MARTIN,
SYDNEY BENNETT
AND STEVE LACY**

FIRST JAPAN SHOW SOLD OUT • ON TOUR IN EUROPE NOW

SASQUATCH MUSIC FESTIVAL 5/27 GEORGE, WA
BONNAROO MUSIC FESTIVAL 6/12 MANCHESTER, TN





Sir Idris Now

Idris Elba was knighted an Officer of the British Empire by Prince William in a ceremony at Buckingham Palace. Elba received the Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire award for his excellence in acting drama. Elba is shown with his Ghanaian-born mom, Eve.

For Peete's Sake On Own



PHOTO BY KWANU ALSTON/COURTESY OF OWN

L-r: Robynson Peete, RJ Peete, Holly Robynson Peete, Rodney Peete, Roman Peete, Ryan Peete and Dolores Robynson

The comedic, dramatic OWN docu-series "For Peete's Sake" that follows the lives of husband and wife Holly Robynson Peete and Rodney Peete and their family that includes four children and Holly's uber-manager mother Dolores is now part of the Saturday night lineup on the OWN network. In its premiere season, the family dynamics offer a realistic but inspirational outlook. Holly and Rodney are loving parents to their 17-year-old son RJ who has autism and was told he would never speak. Today, not only can't he stop talking, but he enjoys advocating for special needs children. His twin sister Ryan is trying to decide whether to go to college or jumpstart a career in music. Thirteen-year-old son Robinson caught the athletic gene from his father and would love to follow in his footsteps, but all the latest concussion studies have Holly wishing for a less dangerous choice. The series is produced by award-winning Tremendous! Entertainment, committed to telling uplifting stories featuring passionate characters with the audacity to try to change the world.

Unite4:Humanity Honors Freeman

"We are honored to recognize Morgan Freeman and his organization that helps promote educational opportunities for youth in Mississippi," said Jim Taylor, Chief Marketing Office of Karma Automotive, the premiere sponsor of the 3rd Annual Unite4:Humanity Awards held in Beverly Hills. "We are dedicated to 'Acting with Intention' for a better future in our industry and supporting those who also do this in their organizations and personal lives." Freeman was recognized for his work with the Tallahatchie River Foundation at unite4:good.

BET Honors Salutes Maurice White



PHOTO BY AARON J. ZIMCO/REPTIMAGES.NET

The 9th Annual BET Honors saluted the late Earth, Wind & Fire lead singer and producer Maurice White in a special tribute led by Raheem DeVaughn. Hosted by Arsenio Hall, this year's BET Honors also included performances by Eddie Levert, Fantasia, Jussie Smollett, Ledisi, Toni Braxton, The Deele, Jazmine Sullivan, and Usher. Honorees were former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Dreamworks Animation Melody Hobson, *Empire* co-creator Lee Daniels, Patti LaBelle, and Epic Records Chairman L.A. Reid.

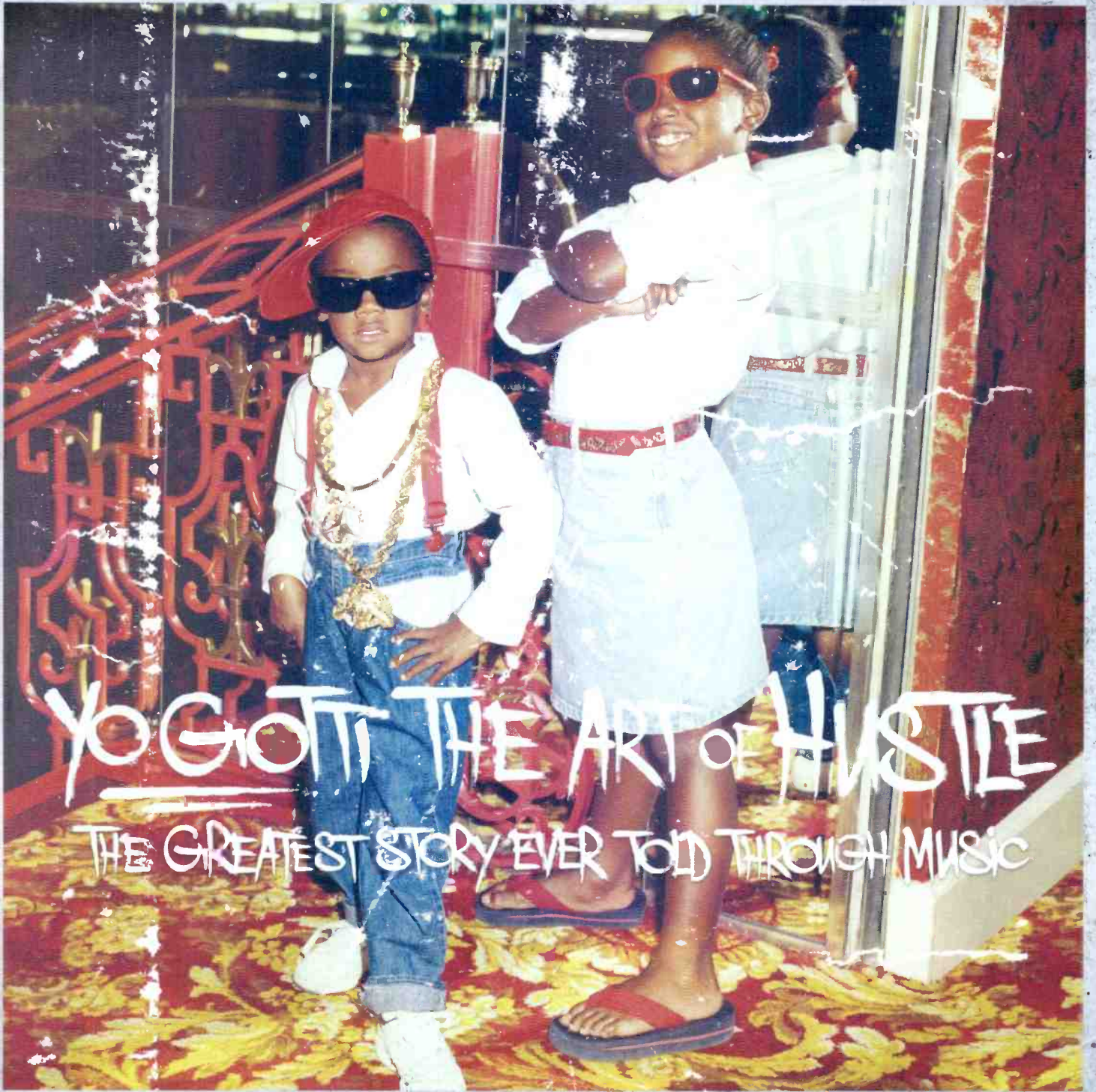
Growing Up Hip Hop Renewed

WE tv has renewed the docu-series "Growing Up Hip Hop" for a second season to return in 2017. The show, featuring a new generation of hip hop moguls blazing new paths from the shadows of their famous parents, includes Angela Simmons, Romeo Miller, Damon "Boogie" Dash, Kristinia DeBarge, TJ Mizell and Egypt Criss. "This show connected with viewers immediately, because these characters and stories are real and relatable, and we can't wait to bring the fans more," announced Marc Juris, president of WE tv. Growing Up Hip Hop is executive produced by John Morayniss, Tara Long and Mark Herwick for EntertainmentOne Television (eOne) along with Angela Simmons, Romeo Miller, Percy Robert Miller (Master P) and Datari Turner. Turner's Datari Turner Productions is co-producing the series.

Houston's Sisters-In-Law

WE tv and the Association of Black Women Attorneys (ABWA) celebrated the premiere of its latest show, «Sisters In Law," an 8-episode one-hour series that follows a group of Houston's top black female attorneys as they tackle some of the toughest cases in Texas. (l-r) Jolanda Jones, Monique Chantelle Sparks, Tiye Tarita Foley, Rhonda Wills, Vivian R. King, and Juanita Jackson at the NY premiere at the Museum of Art & Design—Photo by D Dipasupil/Getty Images for WE tv





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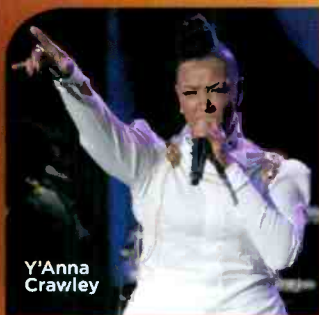
Above: (L to r): BMI VP Writer/Publisher Relations, Catherine Brewton; CeCe Winans; BeBe Winans; BMI President & CEO, Mike O'Neill

Syndicated radio host and gospel artist Yolanda Adams along with Mike O'Neill, BMI President and CEO, and Catherine Brewton, BMI Vice President, Writer/Publisher Relations, Atlanta, hosted BMI's annual Trailblazers of Gospel Music Honors at the Rialto Center for the Arts in Atlanta, Georgia, broadcast nationwide on TV One.

The 75-year performing rights organization, BMI, saluted sibling duos BeBe and CeCe Winans and Mary, Mary, among others as it celebrated the best in gospel music with performances from Donald Lawrence, last year's winner of Song of the Year "The Gift", Mary Mary tribute performances from KeKe Wyatt, Y'Anna Crawley, Tasha Cobbs and Kierra Sheard, Tasha Page-Lockhart and Lisa Page-Brooks



Host Yolanda Adams and Brian Courtney Wilson perform



Y'Anna Crawley

Left: Mary Mary with their husbands: (l-r) Teddy and Tiha and Erica and Warryn





BMI's Song of the Year, "Amazing" performed by Tiff Joy, Ricky Dillard and Avery Sunshine



Fred Hammond and Deborah Cox perform



Isaac Carree, Donald Lawrence perform



Jonathan McReynolds and Tamia



BMI Honorees Erica and Tina Campbell of Mary Mary

and Tamela Mann, and Winans tributes from Tamia and Jonathan McReynolds, Yolanda Adams and Brian Courtney Wilson, Kelly Price, siblings Marvin and Debbie Winans and Deborah Cox and Fred Hammond.

In the Most Performed Song category, BMI's *Most Performed Gospel Song of the Year* was "Amazing" by Ricky Dillard & New G featuring Tiff Joy, followed by a top ten that included "But Go 1," co-written by Isaac Carree, Philip Cornish and Eric Dawkins and performed by Carree featuring James Fortune; "Different," written by Kirk Franklin and performed by Tasha Page-Lockhart; "Help," co-written by Hasben Jones and Harold Lilly and performed by Erica Campbell featuring Lecrae; "I Can Only Imagine," co-written by Israel Houghton and Meleasa Houghton and performed by Tamela Mann; "I Will Trust," co-written by Phillip Feaster, Calvin Rodgers, and Fred Hammond, who is the performer; "No Greater Love," written by Aaron Lindsey and performed by Smokie Norful; "This Place," written by Darrell Blair and performed by Tamela Mann; "War," written and performed by Charles Jenkins; "We Are Victorious," written and performed by Donnie McClurkin featuring Tye Tribbett; and "You Alone," written by Michael McDowell and performed by the Arkansas Gospel Mass Choir.

BeBe and CeCe closed the show with their now iconic hit "Up Where We Belong" from their 1984 album *Lord Lift Us Up*.



Tamela Mann



Kelly Price



MIDATLANTIC

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

Hector Hannibal: Making WHUR History...Again

"We're thrilled to welcome Hector aboard during this exciting period of growth for the station," said Jim Watkins, General Manager of the Howard University powerhouse urban AC WHUR-FM (96.3), which consistently tracks at #3 Arbitron ranking in the market. "We know he has a proven track record of success and we look forward to him lending his expertise to the WHUR team," added Watkins about the return of Hector Hannibal as the station's Program Director.

Replacing Maxx Myrick who left in June, Hannibal is indeed no stranger to the adult mix which he helped launch during his WHUR tenure from 1992 to 2002. From Maryland, Hannibal has even deeper ties to the marketplace. "I've been a WHUR listener for many years now and feel an emotional connection to the brand. I look forward to serving my team, station management, and listeners' proficiently and tirelessly."

The 20-year veteran radio programmer had left WHUR to join Reach Media as Vice President of Programming, where he was directly involved with expanding the reach of the nationally syndicated "Tom Joyner Morning Show." Said Hannibal, "I'm looking forward to working with Jim Watkins and his team of great broadcasters. Leading the team at WHUR will be an honor because of the station's rich and storied history. I am happy to help the 40-year legacy continue."



(l-r) WHUR GM Jim Watkins, BRE Founder Sidney Miller, III, and new WHUR PD Hector Hannibal—Photo by Alvin Jones

Yo Gotti Reveals His Street Cred In 'The Art of Hustle'

As Presidential candidate Donald Trump laid out his keys to success in "The Art of the Deal," Yo Gotti reveals his in "The Art of Hustle," his new CMG/Epic album touting his first #1 single "Down In The DM" and collaborations with Nicki Minaj, K. Michelle, Lil Wayne and labelmate Future on the single "General."



Yo Gotti and Black Youngsta at 106.5 the Beat

Celebrating February 19th as official National Hustle Day, the North Memphis rapper and businessman takes it even a step further with the video release and premiere on BET Jams of his documentary "Born Hustler (NSFW)", executive produced by Epic Chairman Antonio L.A. Reid and co-produced by Epic CEO Sylvia Rhone.

The self-styled rapper stepped into the Richmond, Virginia studios of iHeartRadio urban WBTG-FM (106.5 the Beat) to discuss his laws of success with afternoon personality Mike Love in advance of his media blitz on radio, TV, digital, print and in-store appearances that included his debut on ABC's *Jimmy Kimmel LIVE!*

"My city made me," he explains, describing how he was born a hustler, adding, "Everyday some-

body's killed in these streets." That real-life statistic didn't change his hustler drive, he adds, but it did make him realize when it was time to swap hustles. The "rules to the game" remain the same and he proceeds to lay out 10 laws, but you have to put it in place in your life. Counting five albums and 19 mixtapes in his resume, he advises, "Swap up the way you hustle...think of the exit route. I gambled on what I believed and it paid off but I had to swap the hustle from the streets to rappin' to real estate to restaurants... and the beat goes on."

The first part of an ongoing visual series, "Born Hustler" focuses on his early years and the influence of his mother and aunties who taught him the rules of the game. "My Momma had a reputation for getting money," says Yo Gotti, known in his neighborhood as Mario Mims. Adds Momma Mims, "Mario didn't ever want to play with the fake money; he always wanted to count the real money."

And to see how we each measure up, he's launched a digital online game, "The Art of Hustle."

Joe Clair Mornings Celebrate Anniversary

Joe Clair Mornings Celebrate Anniversary
CBS Urban AC WPGC-FM (95.5)'s Joe Clair Morning Show with Clair, DJ Flexx, Sunni and Tony Red celebrate their one-year anniversary on the air on the currently #6 overall Arbitron ranked Washington, D.C. station. Host Joe Clair recently welcomed Rick Ross to the studio whose latest remix of Kanye West's track "Famous" from West's anticipated new LP *The Life of Pablo* is creating a greater buzz than Ross' remix of Adele's "Hello." (l-r) Rick Ross with WPGC morning host Joe Clair



March Onto More Challenges



Ushering in the new classic hip hop format on WGHL, adding Steve Harvey to the morning slot of WJMJ and Rickey Smiley to mornings on WGZB, Phillip David March has had a full agenda of accomplishments since taking over the programming reigns at Alpha Media's three properties in Louisville, KY: Urban WGZB (B96.5), Urban AC WJMJ (MAGIC 101.3), and Classic Hip-Hop WGHL (OLD SCHOOL 105.1 HIP-HOP). Moving on to more challenges, however, March exited the triple-duty post citing the accomplishments as well as the relationships he forged. "It has been a great experience working with Scott Mahalick and Phil Becker on the corporate level in Alpha and daily with Market Manager Dale Schafer and Operations Manager Ben Davis. I also had the pleasure of working with two of the top minds in Urban Radio, Tony Gray and Harry Lyles."

DC's 9:30 Club Going Live!

The longtime DC venue, the 9:30 Club, originally located at 930 F Street will be featured regularly starting this April on PBS stations in a new one-hour feature called "Live at 9:30." The show will feature many of the iconic concerts performed at the venue over the past 35 years with each episode featuring "a collection of acts from different genres, interspersed with insightful and entertaining interviews, short films, and comedic bits."

The 1200 capacity venue opened in the '80s has featured bands from The Bangles and Bob Dylan to The Go Go's and Steel Pulse to Adele with local bands like Chuck Brown becoming mainstays. Consistently recognized as Nightclub of the Year, the venue actually was relocated in 1996 to the remodeled site of WUST Radio Music Hall of Fame at 815 V Street. 9:30 The Book,



released in January, follows this venue's musical impact and the new variety show is intended to add another dimension. Hosts for the first season include Henry Rollins, Hannibal Buress, NPR's Bob Boilen, Ralphie May, and Jill Kargman with the art director, Wayne White, the man behind the set designs of *Pee-wee's Playhouse*.

Reggie Reg In Memoriam

"He was one of the best DJs of my generation, with a personality bigger than life," stated Baltimore, Maryland Mayor Stephanie Rawlings Blake upon the announcement of the passing of Reggie "Reggie Reg" Calhoun, former Radio One WERQ-FM (92Q) air personality. Succumbing to congestive heart failure in his hometown of Baltimore, Reggie, also known as the 'Mayor of Baltimore,' was also the house DJ at O'Dells and famous for getting the party started. The station held a candlelight prayer vigil in memoriam.





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Black Radio: Telling It Like It Was Jacquie Gales Webb Collection Archived at AAAMC

Jacquie Gales Webb, host of the number one “Sunday Afternoon Gospel” music program in Washington, D.C. since 1990 on Howard University’s urban AC WHUR-FM (96.3), has selected Indiana University’s Archives of African American Music and Culture (AAAMC) as the repository for her collected papers and an array of production materials related to her career that also includes award-winning radio/television producer. She produced the groundbreaking



Jacquie Gales Webb

1996 Smithsonian radio series, *Black Radio: Telling It Like It Was*, and was among the first to explore the history and development of Black-oriented radio through interviews with pioneering disc jockeys, producers, radio station executives and recording artists.

On March 7, a publicly accessible online multi-media exhibit celebrating Gales Webb’s career will be added to the AAAMC’s website (aaamc.indiana.edu). Drawing upon materials in the Jacquie Gales Webb Collection, the exhibit will include many images of her work within radio, the gospel music industry, and the Washington, DC community.

And on March 9, she will present a lecture to the IU campus, followed by a reception honoring her career and celebrating the establishment of the Jacquie Gales Webb Collection. An exhibit currently on display through March 11 in the Neal-Marshall’s Bridgwater Lounge provides an overview of Gales Webb’s career as well as the history of Black radio.

AAAMC’s online multi-media exhibit, “The Golden Age of Black Radio,” which debuted February 1 on the Google Cultural Institute website, included audio clips of interviews conducted by Gales Webb with Black radio pioneers, many available to the public for the first time. Following the format of Gales Webb’s *Black Radio* series, the four-part exhibit traces the birth of Black-oriented radio in Chicago, the role of radio during the Civil Rights Movement, women in radio, and the role of personality deejays in “breaking the hits” and promoting Black music and artists.

The AAAMC was one of 50 institutions invited to partner with Google to celebrate Black History Month by curating new online exhibits. The Gales Webb Collection collection will provide an invaluable resource for scholarly research and course development on Black-oriented radio, radio documentary production, media history, African American music—including gospel and jazz—as well as broader issues on music, mass communication and culture.

Jazmine Sullivan: Women Up

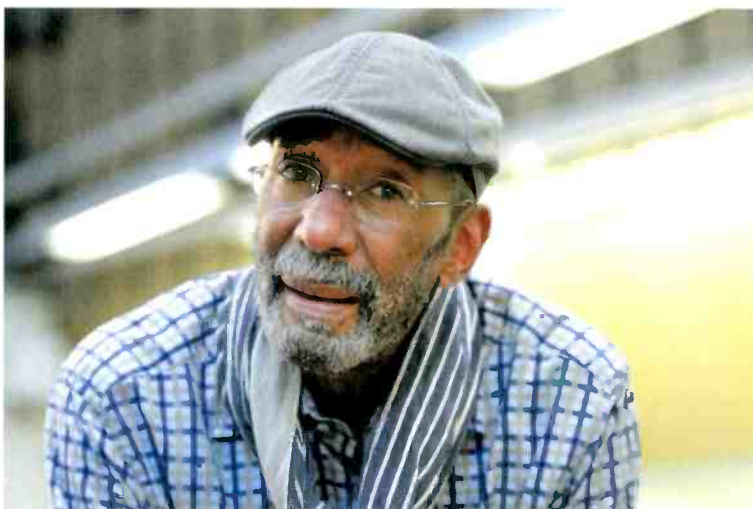
Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter Jazmine Sullivan performed the “National Anthem” at the 2016 Coors Light NHL Stadium Series in Minnesota and followed with a stop on TV’s “Live With Kelly and Michael” where she performed the current single, “Masterpiece,” from her Grammy-nominated RCA album *Reality Show*.

The artist also flaunts her uniqueness on the March cover of *Ebony*



Magazine’s “The Body Brigade” issue along with style blogger Gabi Gregg, Christette Michelle and Danielle Brooks from “Orange Is the New Black.”

Outstanding Bassist of the Decade Ron Carter Adds Detroit Jazz Fest Artist-In-Residence



“I have been to many wonderful places in my life,” explained Detroit native Ron Carter who has been named as the 2016 Artist-In-Residence for the Detroit Jazz Festival, “but no matter where I go, Detroit will always be home. It has shaped who I am and has had a tremendous impact on my life and music. It is an incredible honor to be an Artist-in-Residence from Detroit at one of the world’s greatest festivals held in the heart of my hometown. I am thrilled to get the opportunity to become more involved with this world-class event and work with talented jazz students in a place that’s so special to me.”

As Artist-in-Residence, Carter will contribute to the Festival's continued efforts to support and grow jazz through education in Detroit and beyond. A lifelong educator himself, Carter will pull from his 18 years as a faculty member of The City College of New York's music department and participate in educational initiatives to nurture and develop young local talent in Metro Detroit.

A frequent performer at the annual festival, Carter, celebrating his 50th year in the business, will also open this year's 37th Annual Detroit Jazz Festival, on Friday night, September 2, as well as collaborate with special guests throughout the festival weekend.

When you think of legendary double bassists, Ron Carter is a name that comes to mind very quickly. We are ecstatic he has agreed to be our ambassador this year, extending his lifelong connection to Detroit and years of commitment to this Festival," said Chris Collins, Artistic Director of the Detroit Jazz Festival, the largest free jazz festival in the world. "His personality and music are iconic and greatly reflect our values at the Detroit Jazz Festival -- artistry, expression and sharing the human experience through jazz."

Chicago Mass Choir Named Unofficial Ambassadors for Gospel Music

Appearing on the ABC TV top rated daytime talk show "Windy City Live," the Chicago Mass Choir, now in its 26th year, performed its latest single "Thank You, Thank You Jesus" from its upcoming 16th album *We Give You Praise* releasing on April 15 on New Haven Records. The choir had just recently performed the "National Anthem" at the Chicago Bulls Game live on WGN-TV.

Explained Choir President and CEO Dr. Feranda Williamson, even though the Choir has developed an international and national reach, it still focuses on its local community outreach, donating school supplies and uniforms, adopting a Kindergarten class every Thanksgiving, volunteering and performing at nursing homes and donating to homeless shelters, among others.



Music In Motion at Chicago Auto Show



Doug E. Fresh

Inspired by the Toyota Avalon "Music In Motion" digital series featured on Interactive One's digital platform, Toyota North America paired "The Original Human Beat Box" Doug E. Fresh with speed painter Martina Hahn at its stage at the Chicago Auto Show to compose an inspiring portrait celebrating Black History Month. Online during the month of February, the resulting display celebrated the spirit of the rule breaker who chooses the road less traveled, much like the Toyota Avalon, the car for successful rule breakers.

Who You Gonna Call?

Reach Media, Inc.'s syndicated Rickey Smiley Morning Show led the radio initiative focusing on the water crisis in Flint, Michigan, broadcasting live from Flint's hometown station WOVE-FM (98.9 Jamz). Partnering with Lowe's for the distribution of water to Flint residents in need, TRSMS, which is heard on nearly 70 stations nationwide, welcomed Pastor Jamal Bryant, Russell Simmons, Deitrick Hadden and Reverend Jesse Jackson to the rally at First Trinity Missionary Baptist Church that followed.



Radio was on full alert from Georgia to California. Alpha Media Urban AC WROU-FM (92.1) and Top 40/Rhythmic WDHT-FM (Hot 102.1) in nearby Dayton, Ohio, promoted a water drop within less than 24-hours, explained PD Faith Daniels. "Then both stations did a live broadcast from the Trotwood firehouse for five hours, raising cases of water that were loaded into four semi-trucks and one smaller box truck and delivered to Flint. We collected 4,801 cases and 1,002 gallons of water all totaled. It's been a wonderful journey to see our community come together and help an entire city that needed us. And it's always great when I can team up in house with Hot 102.1 PD Ryan Drake and APD Kevin Nash."

As artists, civil rights activists and celebrities from P. Diddy to Jesse Jackson joined in with radio rallying to support the victims of the Flint water crisis, Blackout for Human Rights, an activist coalition founded by directors Ryan Coogler and Ava DuVernay led a #JusticeforFlint live benefit to raise funds for residents of the stricken city welcoming Janelle Monae, Jussie Smollett and Jesse Williams, among others. #JusticeforFlint was live streamed exclusively on revolt.tv, the online counterpart to the Revolt TV Network founded by P. Diddy, who personally donated water bottles.

Remembering Veteran Broadcaster Kris Kelley



Kris Kelley

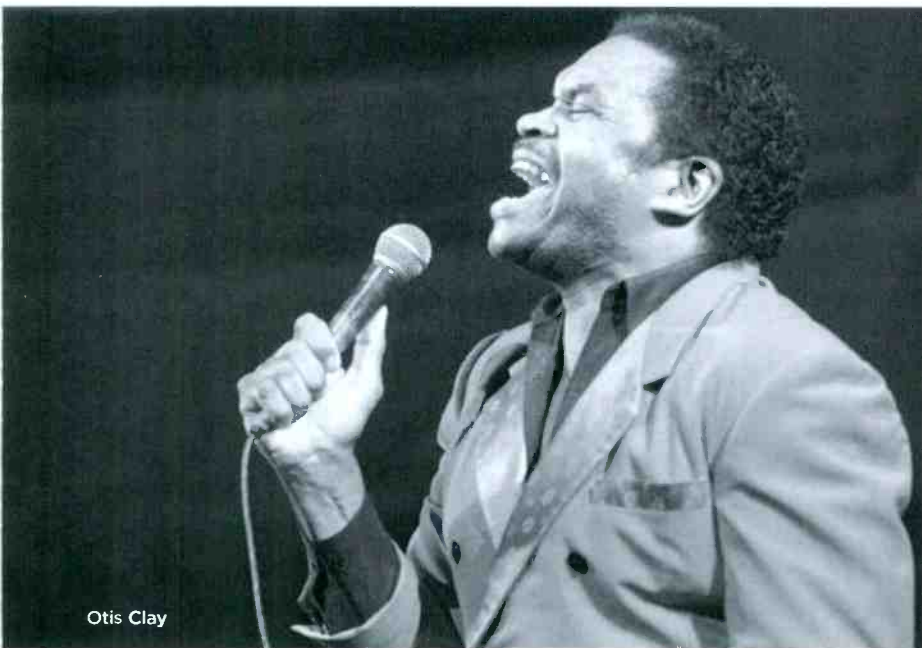
A longtime broadcaster/APD/MD at WJLB in Detroit, who eventually joined Chicago's iHeartMedia urban AC WVAZ at middays before being promoted to PD at sister urban WGCI and WKSC-FM, Kris Kelley was mourned by her friends, family and industry as they learned of her death at only age 45 in Philadelphia from choking. The Philadelphia native began her radio career in Pittsburgh as midday personality and music director for WAMO-FM. Born Lavonne Renee Battle, Kelley was a gifted student who, upon joining the WJLB family in 1998, also added on-air/helicopter traffic reporter at Fox 2 WJBK News to her resume. She was the first African American, but also the first woman to simultaneously program the Top 40 and Urban i-HeartMedia Chicago stations.

Honored by BRE as the Ford sponsored Radio's Driving Force, Kelley received numerous awards from Black Girls Rick Positive Role Model to Sigma Beta Club Leadership Award to the Organization of Black Airline Pilots Community Service Award. Survived by her mother, father, sisters and other family members, colleagues and friends, her life was celebrated by all

with the admonition to pay it forward.

"We lost a loving spirit, fierce competitor and a good friend," commented Radio One/Atlanta Operations Manager "Hurricane Dave" Smith, adding, "As a PD, she made her mark on this industry and she will be missed."

Blues Hall of Famer Otis Clay Remembered



Otis Clay

Even though born in Mississippi, this Chicago-bred soul, gospel and blues singer, who died on January 15th of a heart attack, grew up amidst the Chicago music scene of the '50s, singing with the gospel Golden Jubilaires in 1957 and three years later with the Charles Bridges' Famous Blue Jay Singers. His first soul records were, in fact, released on the Chicago-based One-Derful label, before signing to Atlantic's new Corillion label in 1968 where he released "She's About A Mover." Otis Clay, inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame in 2013 recorded with Syl Johnson and Willie Mitchell, creating a Japanese following in the '70s, nominated for a Grammy in 2008 for his gospel recording "Walk A Mile In My Shoes."

An avid humanitarian Clay developed the Harold Washington Cultural Center and was an active board member of People for New Direction, a community-based non-profit creating economic initiatives for those less fortunate.

"Otis conveyed power with soul music and with blues like very few people I've ever heard live," commented Chicago blues musician Dave Specter, who collaborated with Clay in 2014 on "Message in Blue." "It was as good as it gets."

St. Louis Media History Foundation Inducts Lee Michaels



Lee Michaels

Among this year's 15 Inductees to the Hall of Fame of the St. Louis Media History Foundation, is veteran broadcaster Lee Michaels. Inductees are recognized for having worked in the St. Louis area and having a major impact on local media. Michaels was a former air personality back in the '70s in St. Louis at urban KATZ-AM and KKSS (now KMJM) before segueing to PD at WBMX (now WVAZ) and WGCI in Chicago, PD at KMEL in San Francisco, and air shifts at KMJQ in Houston, KDAY in Los Angeles and 99X in NYC. Now a talent coach, the veteran broadcaster still has ties to St. Louis, the second market he worked in.

New Beat in Central Michigan

A flip from rock to hip hop took place on February 15 at non-commercial Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, with WMHW-HD2-FM broadcasting non-commercial hip hop on the 91.5 frequency with the moniker The Bear, "Hot tracks and throwbacks." The station marked its first week with nonstop live DJs playing hip hop. PD Josh Scramlin, who has been one of the students at the forefront of the change, explained: "We needed to figure out how to connect with more people. With college students right now, hip hop is huge and has been for about four or five years now."

MAJOR ALERT

DJ KHALED

14.3 MILLION FOLLOWERS STRONG

"Ride with me through the journey of success," are the words regularly heard from Miami DJ, rapper, entrepreneur and now social media guru as he spreads his inspirational messages of "We the best," a phrase he often repeated as the hype in his DJ gigs and the subsequent title of his 2007 album and 2011 *We The Best Forever*, or "Do You," his current phrase regularly espoused in his Snapchat daily shorts that some six million viewers check out everyday. Or, don't be a "they", those who try to keep you down, he encourages as he tends his flowers ("angels") or gets his hair cut in his daily docu-life videos. Across Snapchat, Twitter, Instagram and Facebook, he boasts some 14.3 million total followers.

The already successful WEDR air personality originally from New Orleans, who started off with Luther Campbell's "The Luke Show," expanded that moniker of "We the Best" further on the Internet when he debuted his new radio show recently as part of Apple Beats 1. With Future as his first guest on the show, DJ Khaled has already been emblazoned with his own avatar that can be downloaded from Future's emoji apps.

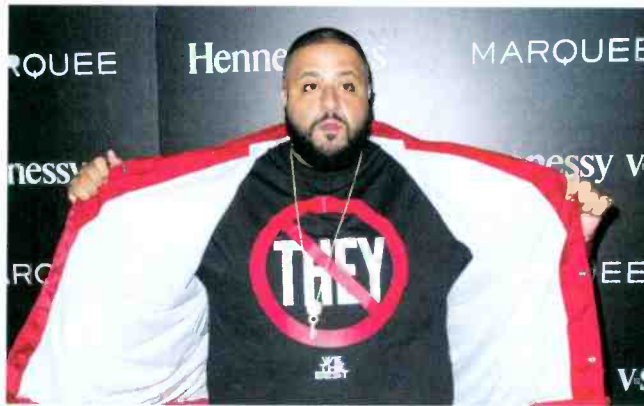
Eight albums later, the unstoppable record company owner, producer, radio personality and artist, is again in hot demand...making history again.

When I recently asked a 13-year old teenager from North Carolina if she knew DJ Khaled, I immediately had street cred with her as she quickly responded, "Oh yes, all the kids at school know him too. We follow him on Snapchat everyday."

Now DJ Khaled is a 40-something-year old Arab Muslim who's been residing in the Miami-Dade area for the past two decades, but his positive messages are emanating with today's youth. According to the Washington Post who crowned him "King of Snapchat" or Advertising Age who recently featured Khaled on its cover, "60 percent of smartphone users in the U.S. aged 13-24 use the Snapchat app and his is one of the most popular." More than 100 million users tune into Snapchat, logging some seven billion views per day.

That's some power for someone who just joined Snapchat in December. He's not even been on it for a year. And the Beats 1 radio show "We The Best Radio" for Apple just debuted in February.

Back to that 13-year old: why do you watch him?



Principal of the Day at Carol City Middle School

"He's so inspiring. And real. He makes you feel like you can win. And he speaks our language."

Larry Jackson, head of content at Apple Music, concurs: "It's that honesty that his audience relates to and why his fans love him so much."

Brands have come running, beseeching his endorsements as they try to reach that desired age group. *Advertising Age* quoted Marshal Cohen, NPD Group chief retail industry analyst: "For brands to sidle up to Khaled makes sense. Creating a language that resonates with the social media consumer is critical. Every brand is trying to figure out [how to connect with millennials], and when you have that language like DJ Khaled does and are resonating with that hard-to-reach target, it's absolutely critical to play that up when you can."

Khaled respects that influence he now has over this younger generation and is careful not to exploit it. This is who he is, he says, and he's been touting his keys to success before Snapchat, espousing and encouraging positivity and confidence.

Named Principal for a Day at the Carol City Middle School in Florida recently by the Miami Dade County School system as part of the Get Schooled program, Khaled made the school announcements, spoke before a schoolwide assembly, performed "All I

Do" and sat for a live interview, all before lunch. The fact that he had his Finga Licking restaurant deliver free lunch for everyone and then rewarded the students for their high attendance rate with \$10,000 to the school's music program just reinforced his impact.

It doesn't hurt when someone like Carmello Anthony quotes Khaled when watching Syracuse win over Gonzago to advance to the top 16 saying "THEY don't want us to win." Or when the Miami Heat t-shirts espouse his Keys to Success,

While at SXSW where he performed with Nas, Khaled revealed that he and Jay Z were going to be doing some things together. Recently signed to Roc Nation, he said, "So I called Jigga like, 'Let's make history together, let's make big business, let's secure the bag together.'" Jimmy Kimmel reportedly hired him as his Snapchat Coach and Belize nicknamed an island after one of his slogans "major key (caye)."

Bless Up Khaled!



SOUTHEAST

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Reporter: **Jammin' Jammie**

Big Boi + Phantogram: Hello, We Are Listen



At the crossroads of music and technology is a new live interactive visual experience powered by Microsoft Kinect the was recently in full display at the inaugural Okeechobee Music & Art Festival in Florida over the March 4-6 weekend. Hip-hop trio Big Grams incorporated the Kinect powered visuals into its live performance of its debut self-titled Epic album during the festival. Basically, the custom technology generates images onto the band's bodies while simultaneously showing a real time projection map of their moving silhouettes on the stage background.

Big Gram is a collaboration between Outkast's Big Boi



and indie duo Phantogram who formed the trio after Big Boi heard Phantogram's "Mouthful of Diamonds" in a pop-up ad. The debut album addresses the seven deadly sins in a unique way speaking to the various contents of character beneath our surfaces. The trio's next appearance is at the Hangout Festival in Gulf Shores, Alabama May 20-22.

Custom made by new media and entertainment company V Squared Labs, a dynamic interactive backdrop uses Microsoft Kinect's motion sensing technology to complement Big Grams' eclectic and energetic performance.

Explains Vello Virkhaus, CEO & Creative Director of V Squared Labs, "The creative idea behind the Big Grams show was to transform the artists' physical movements into experience visuals. We did this by utilizing Touch Designer and Microsoft's Kinect technology."

Added Steve Milton, Founding Partner of We are Listen who worked with Microsoft to document Big Grams' use of the technology: "The exciting thing about Kinect's motion sensing technology is that it can be customized to the artist for a unique and highly personalized performance."

All Eyes Were On South Carolina

Democratic Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, who claimed victory in the recent Nevada caucus, also won by a landslide the telling South Carolina Primary calling in live to urban AC WJMZ-FM (107.3 Jamz) Kelly Mac Show where she discussed everything from politics to family, social security benefits, student loans, chocolate, marriage, forgiveness, police brutality on minorities and more!



AUC Offers Media Sales Program At Morehouse

Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College and Spelman College, all partners of the Atlanta University Center Consortium (AUC) welcome the Media Sales Institute (MSI) program which will be led by the Marketing Department at Morehouse College March 7-17. The National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters Telecommunications Education and Management Foundation (NABOB Foundation), and Personal Selling Principles partnered to expand the program to AUC with additional funding from Comcast Spotlight, The COX Organization, The Gannett Foundation, Nielsen and AutoTrader to offer a gateway to media sales success.

Designed to prepare talented individuals with diverse backgrounds for an entry-level position in radio, television, cable, print, digital and interactive sales, the NABOB Media Sales Institute says the AUC partnership will be the first institute to recruit military veterans, career changers and college graduates.

Led by the Morehouse College Marketing Department under the direction of Dr. Cassandra Wells, Associate Professor and Marketing Department Director in the Division of Business Administration and Economics, "The Media Sales Institute is a great next step for the graduates of the new sales minor program at Morehouse," she explains. "We have sent Morehouse students to previous MSIs in other cities. It is great that now our graduates can come to Morehouse to receive the groundbreaking media sales career training that the Media Sales Institute provides."

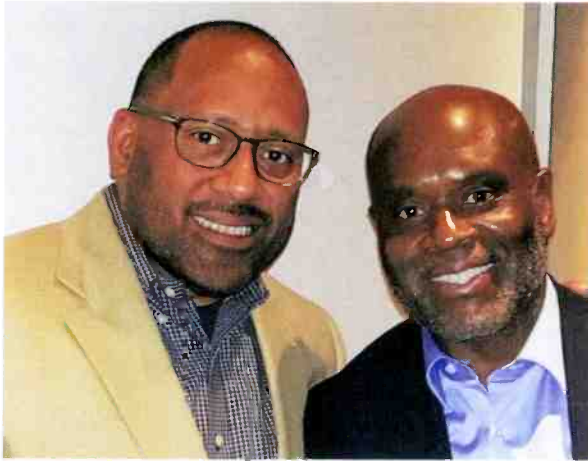
Dynamic Duo Together Again

Cox Media urban contemporary WHQT-FM (Hot 105) touted the return of comedian Benji Brown to his former sidekick Rick Party for afternoons on the weekday 3pm-7pm slot. The two previously hosted the morning show on WEDR-FM (99 Jamz) from 2003 to 2004. Known for his wide range of characters, Benji Brown has regularly been hosting improvis in the area and continues the comedy circuit as well. Featured on Nick Cannon's "Wild n' Out" on MTV, ESPN's "Cold Pizza" and BET's "College Park," the Miami native joined Party on March 2 as co-host.



Benji Brown

Bounce TV Welcomes Rainmaker

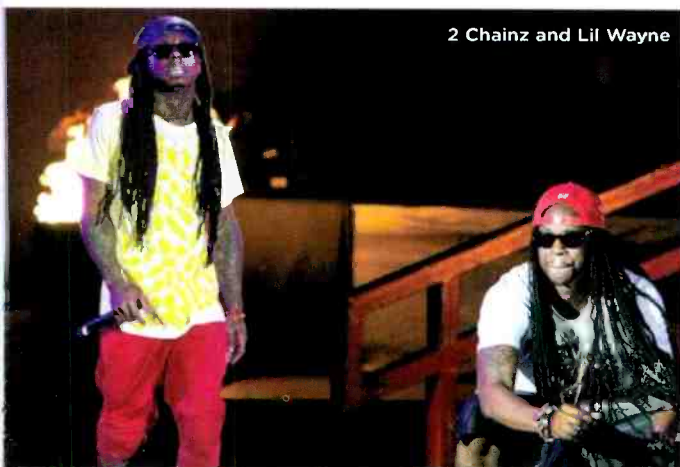


Frank Ski joined up with former fellow Atlantan L.A. Reid for his book presentation.

Returning to Atlanta where he was the longtime mornings ratings champion at CBS urban WVEE-FM (V103) from a stint at Howard University's urban AC WHUR-FM (96.3), Frank Ski has reported in for duty at Bounce TV, the urban inspirational network founded by Martin Luther King, III and Andrew Young. TV and syndication had long been in Ski's plans and joining Bounce TV as an on-air talent and consultant gives the veteran broadcaster the opportunity to expand his reach. Also an Atlanta restaurateur, Ski joined Bounce TV in hosting the 11th Annual Chefs of the World: The Taste of Fame at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta at the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame Foundation event.

The network premiered its original series "Saints and Sinners" in March.

You've Gotta Have Faith



2 Chainz and Lil Wayne

"You gotta believe," was the encouragement from Def-Jam artist 2Chainz who helped a destitute family of 11 with not only his words but his pocketbook, donating a five-bedroom home to the family being evicted because the father, due to health issues, had not been able to work. "I'm looking forward to the kids growing up knowing that Uncle 2 Chainz came through," explained the artist who opens the new ColleGrove album, a collaborative effort with Lil Wayne, with an endearing "Dedication": If it wasn't for Wayne, it wouldn't be/ A lot of dudes in the game, including me." The video of "Bounce" shows the two battling raps.

Kat Williams Apologies



CBS urban WVEE-FM (V103) morning show host Big Tigger was surprised by a penitent Katt Williams who appeared unexpectedly at the Atlanta studio following his headline performance at Philips Arena to publicly apologize for some of his derogatory comments about Kevin Hart...but, in the on-air broadcast, took aim at Chris Rock instead.--Photo by Rob Hamilton/V-103/CBS Atlanta

Miss Monique: Keepin' It Real Award

"I couldn't could not sit here and do nothing," exclaimed iHeart Media/Albany's PD of urban AC WMRZ-FM (98.1 Kiss) and urban WJIZ-FM (96.3) in response to the Flint, Michigan water crisis. A native of Flint, Michigan, Miss Monique, who is also the midday personality on WJIZ as well as on Augusta, Georgia's Power 107, kept it real, galvanizing forces in Albany to collect water and transport it to Flint where she then proceeded to broadcast live from the scene. The playwright, director, producer, community advocate and devoted mother as well helped raise not only awareness of the Flint water crisis, but also delivered the goods from the Albany community in the 14-hour trek to Flint with a donated U-Haul to join with the Rickey Smiley Show in distributing to the city.



Shown: The CCPLC Student Council President and Social Committee Chair with Miss Monique of WJIZ 96.3 at the station's water drive for Flint, Michigan.

Mornings In Atlanta



How does the Ryan Cameron Morning Show on CBS urban WVEE-FM (V103) maintain consistent top ratings? Live morning tours at DUNNKIN' DoNuts in the area don't hurt.



AJ SAVAGE

THE MAN BEHIND THE MUSIC

BY CAROL OZEMHOYA

He's contributed to the success of many of the biggest names in urban music, from Alicia Keys, Usher, Janet Jackson, Chris Brown and Tyrese to Fantasia and Jennifer Hudson, among others.

Meet A.J. Savage, the Urban Promotions Manager for RCA Records. Based in Columbia, South Carolina, Savage has been involved in the music industry for decades. He fast became a guru at getting records played on the radio, in the clubs and into the minds of music's decision-makers. Now he is the go-to-guy for breaking new artists and making sure those already out there stay on track and relevant.

Starting in 1976 when he was studying broadcast journalism at Benedict College in New Jersey, Savage recalls he already had an acumen for good music, plus he kept an ear to the ground and his eye on the streets.

That lethal combination landed him a much-sought-after internship at Sugarhill Records. Next he added radio personality to his resume with stints at WWDM-FM (Big DM 101) in Columbia, S.C., eventually adding other radio and even TV stations.

But his heart was really into marketing and promotions, he explains. And that is where he excelled, whether it was a hot single

from Barry White or Naughty By Nature back in the day, or a breakout record from a young rising star the likes of Alicia Keys when she first appeared.

Savage prides himself on building relationships, creating promotions that benefit everyone involved and most of all, knowing his core audience and super serving it.

BRE asked the seasoned Savage what he thinks are the key elements in promoting an artist or record.

"First, the music itself has to be good," he explains. "No. 2 is marketing. Having a plan to develop a brand and having a strategy to target the right demographic. There has to be development of a promotional radio tour. I still believe in the old radio grass roots tour. No. 3, you have to have an electronic media kit now that should include visual as well as audio information about the artist. And lastly, a social media campaign."

Savage says he owes his longevity in this business to being adaptable, especially to all the new technologies.

"And being able to reinvent yourself," he adds. "The industry is constantly changing and you have to, you simply have to, keep up with any new ways of doing business."



One of Savage's biggest challenges opined by some is that urban radio is not as relevant with the availability of Internet radio and the prevalence of file sharing.

"Radio is still the leading force for artists," Savage insists. "It's still the meter for the urban audience, and music listeners in general. The landscape may have changed some, however, radio is still the leading force in validating music and artists."

Another key to Savage's longevity, he explains, is that his job is never boring and there are always new challenges to keep him focused.

"It's never the same. It's never boring, always exciting, especially watching an artist go from ground zero and become a force in music culture. Watching artists evolve from raw talent to Grammys and awards gives you pure pleasure."

There are frustrations, too. "I do get frustrated when I try to introduce a new talent or new technology and run into a closed door to anything new or different...or when the big picture slips from focus."



All of his accolades are well-earned. We have known each other since our college days...Both headed to music careers at Arista! AJ is a true music executive who combines research with relationship - a winning combination!



—JACQUELINE RHIMEHART / ORGANIC SOUL MARKETING

Savage, whose career has taken him from Sugarhill to A&M, Virgin and Warner Bros. to RCA, has worked with artists in all genres including hip hop, R&B and pop. He recalls memorable moments with such artists as Janet Jackson, Barry White, Ghetto Boys, Naughty By Nature, Alicia Keys, Luther Vandross, CeCe Peniston, Morica, Usher, Anthony Hamilton and Charlie Wilson, among many.

Also founder of the South Carolina Record Pool in 1983, Savage says that has helped him keep his ear to the ground. "It keeps me on the cutting edge of the streets," he explains.

"The DJ community is still a testing ground for breaking new artists and records, and it gives me access on the ground floor. I love being on the ground floor of anything new happening in the industry. I also love the camaraderie."

When he's not building artists' careers and working records, Savage enjoys spending time with his family. He also loves to travel, boating and cars.

And Savage is looking for his next opportunity through his own firm, Savage One Management & Entertainment. Reach out to him at 803.237.6437 or via Savage210@AOL.com. He is currently managing award-winning singer CeCe Peniston.

"connecting the deep roots of soul jazz and explorations into the nether worlds of improvisation"



DOUG CARN



My Spirit
In Stores and
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"You may remember him on Earth Wind and Fire's initial releases or on the classic recordings done with his wife Jean Carn. In his new release he plays Hammond B-3 (which is to say keyboard leads and bass simultaneously) along with three of the Bay area's brightest young talents, saxophonists Howard Wiley and Teodross Avery and drummer Deszon Claiborne. Blues based with African style horn harmonies, the sweet perfume of funk wafts from both the covers (Sonny Stitt, Horace Silver, and Gene Ammons) and his own wonderful originals. Lee Morgan's tune "Mr. Kenyatta" and Carn's tunes "Chant" and especially the title tune, "My Spirit" are the stars of the disc, but it is all primo.

—Hobart Taylor, KUCI Radio, Irvine, CA





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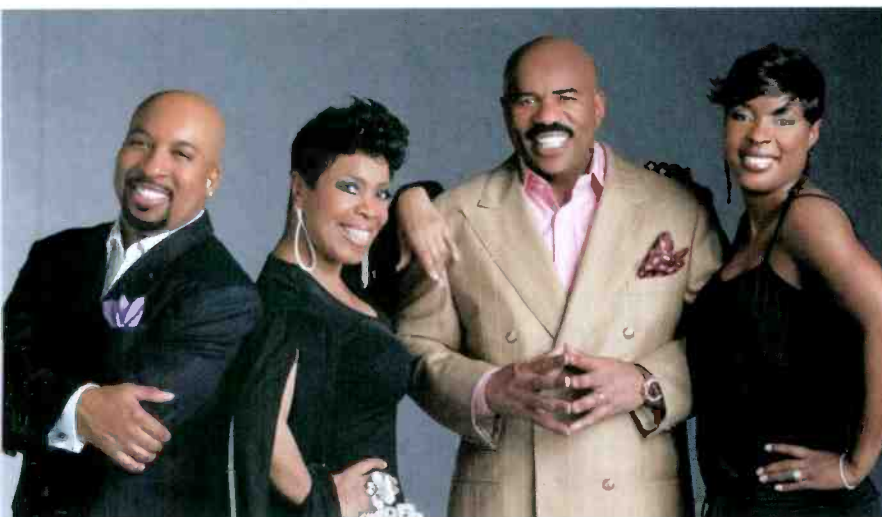
Reporter: **Calvin Terrell** and **Toni Sallie**

Hot 97 Celebrates 1 Million Subscribers



The first national radio station to hit one million subscribers and claim half a billion Youtube views, Emmis urban WQHT-FM (Hot 97) celebrated their achievements with Youtube where the Hot97 digital team was presented with a plaque. Hot97 DJs Enuuff, Camilo Funkmaster Flex were joined by other staffers Ebro, Laura Stylez, Megan Ryte and Nessa for performances by Dougie F, Rotimi and Mack Wilds at the station's Music Mondays monthly concert series at the Youtube Space.

Steve Harvey Mornings Now On WBLK



"WBLK is very excited to bring the heart, humor, music and celebrity of *The Steve Harvey Morning Show* to all of our listeners in Western New York," stated Town Square Media urban AC WBLK-FM (93.7), Buffalo, NY Brand Manager Chris Reynolds. The Premiere Radio Networks nationally syndicated morning show that broadcasts to more than 80 stations nationwide started on 'People's Station' WBLK, that has been broadcasting to the Buffalo and Western NY area for more than 50 years, on March 1

'Coco Brother, Jesus Baby' Returns to WLIB



"To hear Emmis Communications inspirational WLIB-AM (1190) Operations Manager and Program Director Skip Dillard say 'I want Coco Brother live on our station' felt great," said Radio Condrey Chairman and founder Cory "Coco Brother" Condrey upon his recent return to the New York market. "I am excited about serving the City of New York and the WLIB family..."

Added Dillard: "Coco has been working consistently to take Gospel radio to the next level, reaching younger audiences without alienating our core listeners. We look forward to being part of the ongoing transformation."

Coco Brother Live Presents The Weekend "Spirit" can now be heard Saturdays on WLIB.

Philly Salutes Its Own



iHeart Media urban AC WDAS-FM (105.3), Philly's Best R&B and Throwbacks, celebrates its second annual Women Of Excellence, saluting its own Patti Labelle, among five other extraordinary women from the area as

WDAS PRESENTS THE 2016 WOMEN OF EXCELLENCE

well as four nominated directly by listeners. Explains iHeart-Media Philadelphia Director of Urban Programming Derrick Corbett, "WDAS has always supported extraordinary female air personalities and leaders. The Women of Excellence Luncheon is our way of thanking the remarkable women both well known and little known, who are making a difference in our community."

After 7, Lalah Hathaway and Avant will be performing list at the event presented by Gwynedd Mercy University and PhillyJustice.com

Wyclef Celebrates In Brooklyn

Brooklyn welcomes back one of its own, Wyclef Jean, Haitian-born but who grew up in Brooklyn from age 10, with two shows at the Brooklyn Bowl on March 22 and 23. The 10-time Grammy nominated and three-time Grammy-winning producer, performer and songwriter celebrates the Caribbean Carnival, in anticipation of his upcoming new album, *Carnival 3*.



The Fugees founder, who joined in the group's celebration of its classic *The Score's* 20th anniversary, recently premiered new music he composed for the game "Lost In Harmony: Kaito's Adventure" by LINK at the New York Game Show and launched the first of a new line of advanced audio products in conjunction with Creative Technology LTD at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas as President of HEADS Innovation. He also contributed "Kiss The Sky" to *The Knocks* new album 55.

Who Will Control AURN?

With the recent Chapter 11 Bankruptcy filing by Pittsburgh-based Sheridan Broadcasting, the fate of AURN is in immediate jeopardy. Sheridan is the majority owner of American Urban Radio Network with 51% and was already in payment arrangements with NBN Broadcasting, Inc., Access.1 Communications subsidiary, but missed the latest one prompting Access.1 to file for immediate relief from the automatic stay that had been in place to enforce the terms of a settlement agreement between NBN Broadcasting, Inc. and Sheridan. Essentially, Access.1 is asking for immediate majority interest in AURN for NBN.

Questlove: Can Food Be Art? Can Art Be Food?

The City of Brotherly Love's Penn Museum Harrison Auditorium is the site on April 24 of the live broadcast of NPR's "Fresh Air" in which host Terry Gross discusses Questlove's latest book, "Something to Food About: Exploring Creativity with Innovative Chefs," a behind-the-scenes look at the creative of respected chefs like Daniel Humm, Dominique Crenn, Ludo Lefebvre, Nathan Myhrvold and Donald Link, among others from around the country. The Roots' percussionist, who can be seen nightly as the group's bandleader on "The Tonight Show," released a previous New York Times bestseller called "Mo' Meta Blues: The World According to Questlove." He is also currently producing the Broadway hit musical "Hamilton."

The cover art is by Reed Barrow, styled after 16th century Italian painter Guiseppe Arcimboldo who made portraits of people out of food and other novelties. The Penguin Book is due this April through Random House.

The conversations with the 10 chefs/artists "begin with food but end wherever food takes them. Food is fuel. Food is culture. Food is history. And food is food for thought."



The Voice of New York Revealing 'My Voice'

Internationally celebrated radio icon, Angie Martinez, became widely known as the "Voice of New York," especially among the hip hop culture. Now, after nearly two decades on radio, first at WQHT-FM (Hot 97) where her show was consistently top rated, and currently at iHeartMedia urban WWPR-FM (Power 105.1), the controversial radio personality is releasing "My Voice, A Memoir" on Penguin Books through Random House. With a foreword by Epic artist J. Cole, the book, scheduled for a May, 2016 release, shares her personal accounts of not only the behind-the-scenes interviews she's done with everyone from President Obama to Chris Brown to growing up in Brooklyn with a single mom. Last November New York Mayor Bill De Blasio declared Angie Martinez Day during Puerto Rican Heritage Month celebrating her own heritage saying, "When we talk about Angie Martinez, the title 'The Voice of New York, La Vox de Nueva York,' that's a pretty amazing title. You must be someone pretty special to reach that level."

Others praising her include:

"Conversations with Angie are always straightforward and in the moment. She interviews how she lives her life, openly and honestly. After everything she has experienced and everyone she has spoken with, this is just the first half of her story. It's the right time for her memoir; she is a pioneer."—Shawn "Jay Z" Carter

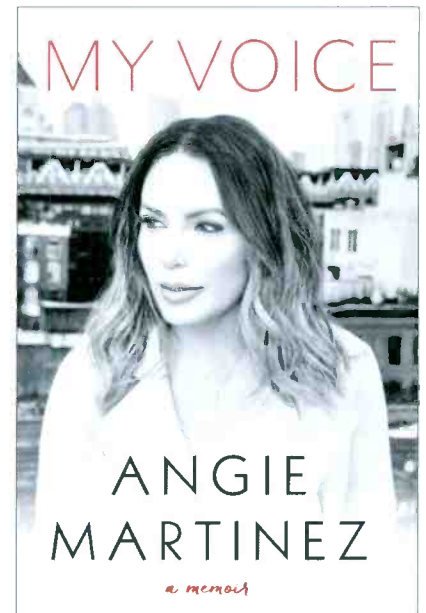
"Whenever New York has an opinion, Angie has always been the voice of reason—the voice we were waiting for to ask the right questions."—Pharrell

"Angie Martinez is a true friend and supporter of artists. She's a business-woman, philanthropist, and a true champion of our culture, who has forever altered the landscape of radio and hip-hop music."—Jennifer Lopez

"I just love the way Angie Martinez handles herself in interviews. She's the Hip Hop Oprah for real."—Nicki Minaj

"I've known Angie since she came to my first album listening party. I was a brand-new artist and she stayed until the very end and I will never forget that. She always has nothing but the best intentions for you and it always feels like I'm talking to my homie, not having an interview. She's a legend and I'm proud to call her my friend."—Big Sean

"Growing up as a Puerto Rican girl in New York City, I looked up to Angie, like so many other girls. She has been a positive and empowering influence in my life, especially now that she is my sister friend. I absolutely love this woman! Her own words in this book demonstrate why she is so loved and why her authenticity is so admired. *My Voice* does not disappoint!"—Adrienne Bailon



Ed Lover Mornings Expanding

The Ed Lover Show, added to Philadelphia's Radio One classic hip hop WPHI-FM (Boom 107.9) in January, reports adding another affiliate to its growing syndication in Tyler Media's Classic Hip Hop KOMA-HD3 (V103) in Oklahoma City, OK, where Ed Lover and Monie Love begin on March 21. This marks the seventh affiliate added to the Reach Media, Inc. syndicated morning show in addition to Philadelphia where the show first tested before going live in January. It also airs on WAMJ-HD2/Atlanta where it emanates live, WBMO-FM/Columbus, KSOC-FM/Dallas, KROI-FM/Houston and WNOW-HD2/Indianapolis.





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Yolanda Adams Morning Show Day Proclaimed...And It All Started With A Prayer

Celebrating a 10-year milestone, an all-star cast of performers gathered at Yolanda Adams home church, the Abundant Life Cathedral Church, in Houston to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Syndication One "Yolanda Adams Morning Show." And Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner made it official, declaring February 11th Yolanda Adams Morning Show Day. Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee paid tribute in the Houston legislature, recorded in the Congressional Record, to the longest running gospel radio program in the nation.

Emceed by weekday 5pm-7pm air personality Uncle Larry Funky Jones of Radio One urban AC KMJQ-FM (Majic 102.1), sister station to Praise



102.1 that carries Adams' show, the event included performances from Kim Burrell, Shawn McLemore, The Walls Group, Earnest Pugh, Jonathan McReynolds, Brian Courtney Wilson and Zacardi Cortez, among others as Adams and co-hosts Anthony Valory and Marcus D. Wiley thanked their faithful followers and talked about how everything all started with a prayer.

The recording artist and radio personality, who was featured in the movie "Ride Along 2", also debuted Yolanda's Signature Blend, her new brand of coffee at the celebration, making it the first place to taste it.



Remembering Roosevelt, RJ the Bad Boy

JWPB Broadcasting urban KBCE-FM (102.3 Jamz) and urban AC KMXH-FM (Mix 93.9) in Alexandria, Louisiana mourned the loss of its long-time air personality Roosevelt Polk, aka RJ da Bad Boy, who had been with the stations since 1988. He most recently hosted MIX 93's "Southern Soul Party." Commented JWPB Broadcasting Operations Manager Terence Brown, "He was a true radio professional and unique air personality of many years."



Added Mix 93.9's General Mana "RJ was one of the nicest guys I have ever met. He was one of the good guys. People loved him."

KISS-FM (98.7) Jay Stevens recalled working with Polk in 1993 in the Central Louisiana market: "He was the only guy in town who was actually playing hip-hop music in Alexandria. There were a lot of local artists who really got on the radio because of RJ."

"He was just always genuine with the people," added Williams.

HBO NOW Reveals K104 Listening Session for J Cole

Little did the Service Broadcasting urban KKDA-FM (K104) crew Bay Bay, Ki Ki J, Drew Solo, Holly Red and Operations Manager, George "Geo" Cook know that the listening session they held in December 2014 for J. Cole's "2014 Forest Hills Drive" album would become part of a 5-part HBO Now documentary before being distributed as a DVD. Session 1 includes the footage from the Dallas station.



Yolanda Adams and Seal Join Tyler Perry in New Orleans Live Passion Production



Talk about the trial of the decade, how about the trial of history. As Palm Sunday approaches, the cast set to appear in "The Passion," a two-hour epic musical that FOX TV will air live on March 20 from 8:00 to 10:00 PM EST, has grown to include Yolanda Adams who will kick off the show. Tyler Perry hosts and narrates the \$11 million production of the 2000-year old story of the last hours of Jesus Christ's life on earth written by Peter Barsocchini relying on passages from the Bible and contemporary popular music arranged and selected by executive producer Adam Anders. The soundtrack is being released on Deep Well Records/Virgin/Capitol with advance tracks including "When the Saints Go Marching In" by Yolanda Adams featuring the Preservation Hall Jazz Band exclusive through WalMart.

Set in modern day, however, the Dick Clark Production unfolds live from New Orleans. A procession of a thousand people carry-



(l-r) Executive Producer Adam Anders, Host/Narrator Tyler Perry, Executive Producer Mark Bracco and Executive Producer/Creator Jacco Doornbos speak onstage during "The Passion" panel discussion at the FOX portion of the 2015 Winter TCA Tour at the Langham Huntington Hotel on January 15, 2016 in Pasadena, California--Photo by Frederick M. Brown/Getty Images

ing a 20-foot illuminated cross trek from outside the Mercedes Benz Superdome to the live stage of Woldenberg Park on the banks of the Mississippi River with music from a cast that includes, in addition to Adams and Seal, Jencarlos Canela who plays Jesus, Chris Daughtry (Judas), Prince Royal (Peter), Trisha Yearwood (Mary) and Michael W. Smith, who plays one of the disciples. Grammy Award-winning artist Seal plays the role of Pontius Pilate who conducts the trial of Jesus of Nazareth.

Mathew Knowles Brings 'Old School Back'



The former Xerox Sales Representative is looking to duplicate the success he had with Music World Entertainment's award-winning, record-crashing girl trio Destiny's Child that he shepherded to super stardom. And this time he's documenting the path to superstardom for a reality TV format as Mathew Knowles, Music World Entertainment founder grooms and prepares new girl trio Blushhh Music for mega stardom. Consisting of Sunnie, originally from Woodland Hills, California; Tali who credits Columbia roots; and Bunnie Ray—all now in Houston where the MWE headquarters offers the perfect training camp for the R&B Hip Hop trio who originally joined forces in 2013.

Under Knowles' tutelage, however, their game is upped as the debut trailer to the reality docu-series reveals a journey of near homelessness to the emotional pressures of struggling to succeed and preparing for their performance at the upcoming SXSW Grynd Fest Showcase in Austin, Texas on March 18 and the Tejano Music Awards Fan Fair at Market Square in San Antonio on March 19. No stranger to the reality series format, Knowles debuted the "Breaking From Above" originally in the U.K before launching it on MTV in the U.S.

Published author ("The DNA of Achievers") and motivational speaker, Knowles is also an instructor at Texas Southern University School of Business and Communication and regularly holds boot camps and seminars on how to get in the entertainment industry. Blushhh Music was a featured performer at one of Knowles' day-long boot camps at Houston Community College in 2014, where Knowles offered the advice: "Being safe gets you nowhere in entertainment. It's about taking that risk."

Now look where the group is. Blushhh Music's lead single, "Old School Back," launches their debut album, *Old School Hip Hop Past, Present, Future* with all the familiarity of the past and the urban edge of the future.

Twittered the girls: "It's crunch time and no more talk...about to show the world why the wait was so long but needed! #artist-development."

SPECIAL

EMPOWERMENT CELEBRATED AT NAACP IMAGE AWARDS



Chairman's Award winners unified statement—Photo by Earl Gibson III/Getty Images

This was a special night and you could feel it all around in the Pasadena Civic Auditorium where the 47th Annual NAACP Image Awards broadcast live on TV One on February 5. This is the event where diversity is not only honored but celebrated in all its beauty, where excellence is praised—not overlooked.



Father and son celebrate "Straight Outta Compton" wins

Where N.W.A. set the tone as "Nominees with Attitude" in a rap impersonation host Anthony Anderson led to the "Straight Outta Compton" iconic track amidst protest signs in the audience touting "#Recognition Matters" and celebrities from Taraji P. Henson to Tracee Ellis Ross and Will Smith and Jada Pickett Smith nodded their heads and raised their arms in affirmation from their seats in the audience.

"This is about us. This is our show. We have been here a long time and we're not going anywhere," continued Anderson as he brought out



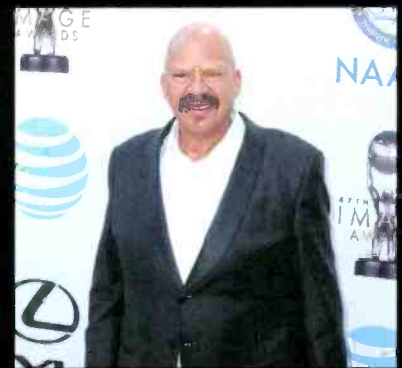
Singer Alice Smith performs outstanding tribute to John Legend.
—Photo by Jason LaVeris via Getty Images



"Straight Outta Compton" acceptance of Outstanding Motion Picture by director F. Gary Gray with cast



Will and Jada Smith react to powerful statement by "Straight Outta Compton" cast



Radio host Tom Joyner presented at the Awards



Accepting the Outstanding Jazz Album award for *Miles Davis At Newport 1955 - 1975: The Bootleg Series, Vol. 4.*, Miles Davis Estate reps Cheryl Davis (daughter of Miles) and Vince Wilburn, Jr. (nephew of Miles) —Photo by Earl Gibson

FORD Fight For Pathways

As a precursor to the NAACP Image Awards, the Ford Motor Company Fund continued its support of the annual awards holding its 12th Annual NAACP Hollywood Bureau Symposium focusing this year with its symposium entitled "Structures, Power, Progress: Pathways to Inclusion" on key issues impacting the lack of diversity and inclusion within the entertainment industry. Pamela Alexander, Director of Community Development, Ford Motor Company Fund, presented a check for \$10k to the students at Compton High School at the Symposium on behalf of Ford/NAACP to purchase a fully equipped iMac with Final Cut Pro X along with light kit, and accessories, to support the school's film and video production program. (l-r) Students Destiny Fifer, Jonathan Mosley, Pamela Alexander; Director of Community Development Ford Motor Company Fund, NAACP Chairman Roslyn Brock, students Monica Betancourt, and James Merryman. —Photo by Louis "Kengli" Carr

the first presenters, the O'Shea Jacksons, father and son, integral to the movie "Straight Outta Compton," that was not only honored as Outstanding Motion Picture but also recognized Jackson, Jr. with Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Motion Picture.

Compton High School had already been empowered earlier in the week at the 12th Annual NAACP Hollywood Bureau Symposium with a \$10,000 grant to the school's film and video production program at a symposium addressing

the very issues of finding pathways to more diversity and inclusion in the entertainment industry.

"One day," sang Alice Smith powerfully asserting that "Glory" would one day be the cry in her impassioned tribute to John Legend, winner of the President Award, for his commitment and support of humanitarian causes. "We know that we stand on the shoulders of giants who risked their lives to bring us closer to true freedom," said Legend.

And amidst the accolades for television

that included "Empire" and its stars Terrence Howard and Taraji P. Henson, and top honors for "Black-ish" that included host Anthony Anderson, Tracee Ellis Ross, Marsai Martin and Kenya N. Barris, this year's Image Awards presented its Chairman Awards.

Not one award as in the past, but eight awards to those who had fostered change with their special voices. NAACP Chair Roslyn M. Brock explained the selection singled out three organizations and individuals who represented bravery,



"Empire" winners Bryshere Y. Gray, Terrence Howard and director Lee Daniels

L-r: "Empire" cast Jussie Smollett, Jabourey Sidibe, Trai Byers, Taraji P. Henson, Bryshere Y. Gray aka Yazz, Grace Gealey, Kaitlin Doubleday and Danny Strong won the Outstanding Drama Series —Photo by Imeh Akpanudosen/Getty Images



"Creed's" Michael B. Jordan won for outstanding actor in a motion picture and entertainer of the year —Photo by Jason LaVeris/FilmMagic

In the music category, Jill Scott was the big winner with three: Outstanding Female Artist, Outstanding Album for 2015's #1 selling Woman and Outstanding Song - Traditional for "Back Together." Scheduled to star in the upcoming Lionsgate film "Coco," produced by the RZA as well as a new F/X series produced by John Singleton, the multi-talent also raises funds to support minority students pursuing college degrees through her Blues Babe foundation.



The cast and crew of 'Black-ish' accept the Outstanding Comedy Series award onstage. —Photo by Earl Glasco PI via Getty Images

respect, activism, and change...heirs to a lineage of leadership who followed in the footsteps of giants like Julian Bond... former Chairman of the NAACP who was honored at an earlier celebration of the non-televised categories of winners. "Like the legends of the past our honorees are leading the fight to stop violence and tear down the symbols of the past," she added announcing Chairman awardees: the Justice League NYC established by Harry Belafonte, the Concerned Student 1950 Collective at the University of Missouri,

Columbia and the Missouri Football players, the University of Mississippi NAACP College Chapter, Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, III from Chicago, Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley and Rev. Dr. Jamal Harrison Bryant from Maryland, and "Empire" actor/artist Jussie Smollett, outspoken for "all lives matter," and Brittany "Bree" Newsome, the activist and filmmaker who scaled a flagpole and took down the Confederate flag outside the South Carolina Capitol.

Then the curtain rose to present the

dynamic eight standing together with fists raised and the audience broke into thunderous applause.

"We are wanting what we see on TV to be reflective of the demographics of our nation," explained NAACP president Cornell William Brooks. "You know, by 2040 our society will be mainly comprised of women and ethnic minorities, and that should be factored into what we see both on the small screen and the big screen. If we truly are 'one America,' then we have to believe in diversity and inclusion."



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Maxwell To Perform At Steve Harvey Neighborhood Awards in Vegas

In a first-ever musical appearance, Maxwell has been confirmed for Steve Harvey's 2016 Annual Neighborhood Awards Weekend. Returning to the Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas July 22 through July 24, this year's three-day weekend celebration of our neighborhood's best in 12 non-traditional categories from Best School Teacher to Best Barber Shop from across the country also welcomes The O'Jays, Erykah Badu, Charlie Wilson, Keith Sweat (who celebrates his birthday on July 22 at the Freedom Friday Party) and Doug E. Fresh.

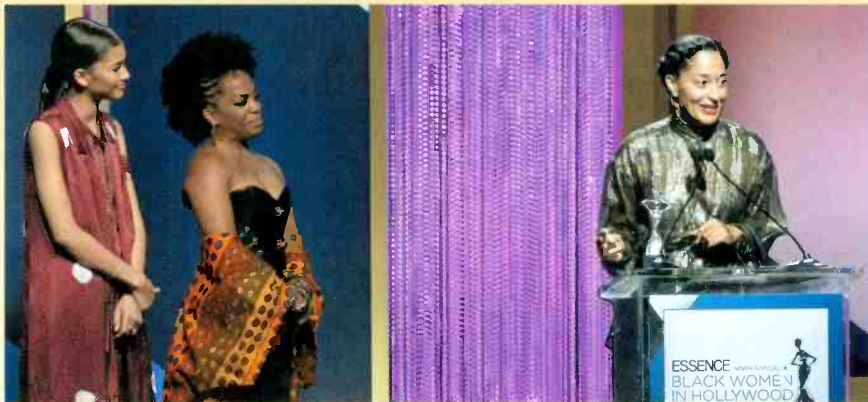
Hosted by Steve Harvey and his Premiere Radio nationally syndicated "Steve Harvey Morning Show" team of Shirley Strawberry, Nephew Tommy, Carla Ferrell and Junior along with Sheryl Underwood, DJ Mars and others, the Neighborhood Awards kicks off on Friday, July 22 with the July 22 Freedom Friday Concert and Party that features the grand prize finale of the State Farm Sing Your Way to the Freedom Friday Concert Talent Contest. The Neighborhood Awards are presented on Saturday followed by a VIP After Party that continues over to Sunday with a beach party featuring Jill Scott.

Co-created by Harvey and Rushion McDonald, this signature event is dedicated to recognizing the best among us...in our very neighborhoods explains McDonald who exclaims, "This is truly a don't-miss signature destination events experience this year! We are thrilled to present the greatest musical lineup in the history of the *Neighborhood Awards*, for its 14th year, with an historic blowout weekend celebration in Las Vegas!"

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- 04/09 - ALBUQUERQUE, NM - LAUNCHPAD
- 04/10 - DENVER, CO - BLUEBIRD

Black Women In Hollywood Recognized As Fearless, Legendary and Powerful



(l-r) Actresses Zendaya, Rhonda Ross Kendrick and honoree Tracee Ellis Ross
—Photo by Earl Gibson III/Getty Images for ESSENCE



(l-r) President of Essence Communications Michelle Ebanks, Oprah Winfrey, and Editor-in-Chief of Essence Vanessa K. De Luca
—Photo by Jesse Grant/Getty Images for ESSENCE

At its 16th annual Black Women In Hollywood luncheon held at the Beverly Hills Four Season Hotel, Essence Magazine recognized the *Fierce & Fearless* Tracee Ellis Ross, the *Legend* Debbie Allen and the *Power* Nina Shaw. The show, which featured Grammy-award nominated artist Leon Bridges performing, aired as an Essence and OWN special on the Oprah Winfrey Network.



Writer/producer Shonda Rhimes and honoree Debbie Allen
—Photo by Jesse Grant/Getty Images for ESSENCE

Big Boi's Wynn in Vegas



Big Boi and Bobbi Painter launch pet care line

Epic artist and six-time Grammy Award winner Big Boi launched his 2016 yearlong, once a month residency at the Wynn Hotel in Las Vegas on February 6 and will be fitting in touring under the new artist name of Big Grams, the partnership he made with the duo Sara Barthel and Josh Carter known as Phantogram, around the Vegas schedule. He performs in both Wynn's daytime and nightlife venues.

The Outkast member who has long maintained his own Pitfall Kennels in Atlanta, also announced the partnership with Bobbi Painter, the creator of natural pet shampoos and pet skin care lines. The two launch the new line called Big and Bobbi, LLC at Global Pet Expo at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida on March 16 and 17.

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Kendrick Presented Key to Compton



Compton Mayor Aja Brown awarded Kendrick Lamar with the key to the city.

“Having this key to the city is not just a representation or the glorification that I have Compton,” said 11-time Grammy nominated Kendrick Lamar upon being presented the key to his hometown of Compton, California. “It’s a representation of all of us, this is a representation of us opening more programs for these kids, opening more job opportunities, that’s how I’m looking at it from my own platform. With that being said, as long as I’m doing music, as long as I’m using my platform for something, I will always scream ‘Compton’ and make sure to come back to this community and do right by it, because you all did alright by me. Through all the hardship, losing family members, losing homeboys, for some reason we always still love Compton, because we have faith.” The Centennial High School straight-A student, winner of the 2015 Grammy for Best Rap Performance and Best Rap Song, scored big at this year’s Grammys winning five of the 11 for which he was nominated.

BMI’s How I Wrote That Song

The Roxy in West Hollywood was the scene for this year’s 13th annual “How I Wrote That Song” presented by BMI, which annually provides a platform for Grammy winners and nominees to discuss the art of songwriting. With Real 92.3 FM DJ Carisma spinning the chart-topping singles of each panelist, the event set the stage for heavy hitters that included Liz Rose (Taylor Swift, Little Big Town, Hunter Hayes), VH1’s Love & Hip Hop Atlanta Stevie J. (P. Diddy, Notorious B.I.G., Mariah Carey), Jerry “Wonda” Duplessis (The Fugees, Michael Jackson, Shakira, Carlos Santana) and Bilal “The Chef” Hajji (Lady Gaga, Jennifer Lopez, One Direction). Duplessis also joined in with The Product G&B to perform the Carlos Santana hit “Maria Maria” and Mali Music performed his hit “Beautiful.”



(l-r) Producer and TV personality Stevie J, BMI Vice President Catherine Brewton, DJ Carisma, Songwriter Bilal “The Chef” Hajji, Songwriter Liz Rose and Producer Jerry “Wonda” Duplessis at BMI’s How I Wrote That Song Panel

—Photo by Joe Scarnici/Getty Images for BMI

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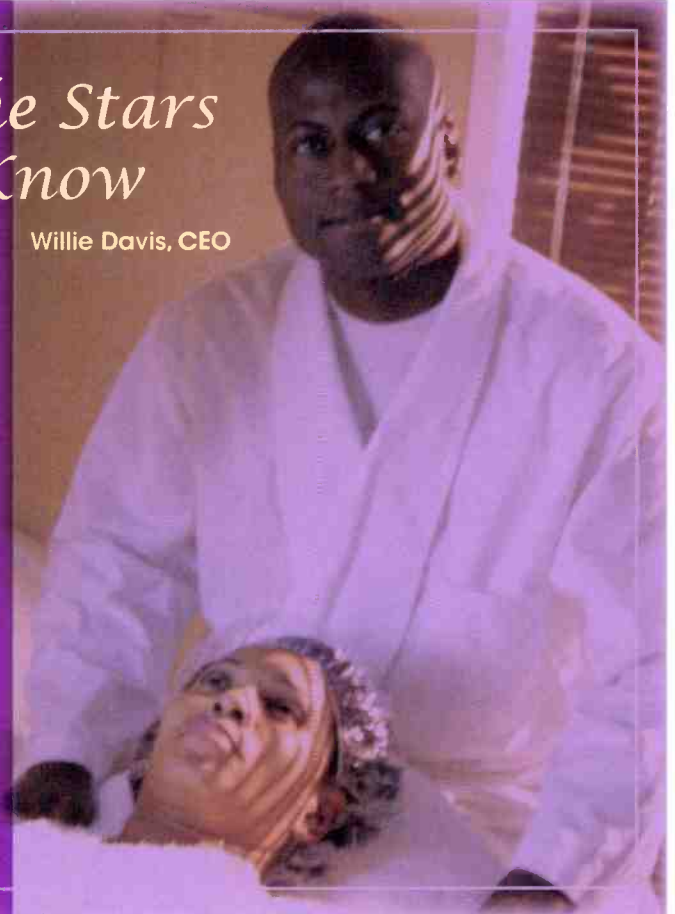
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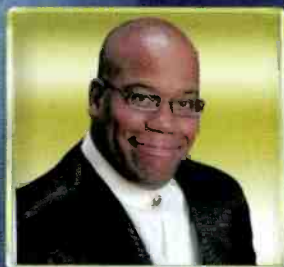
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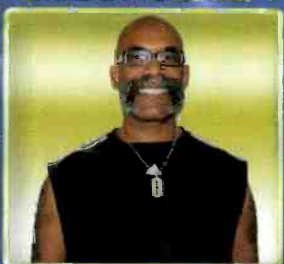
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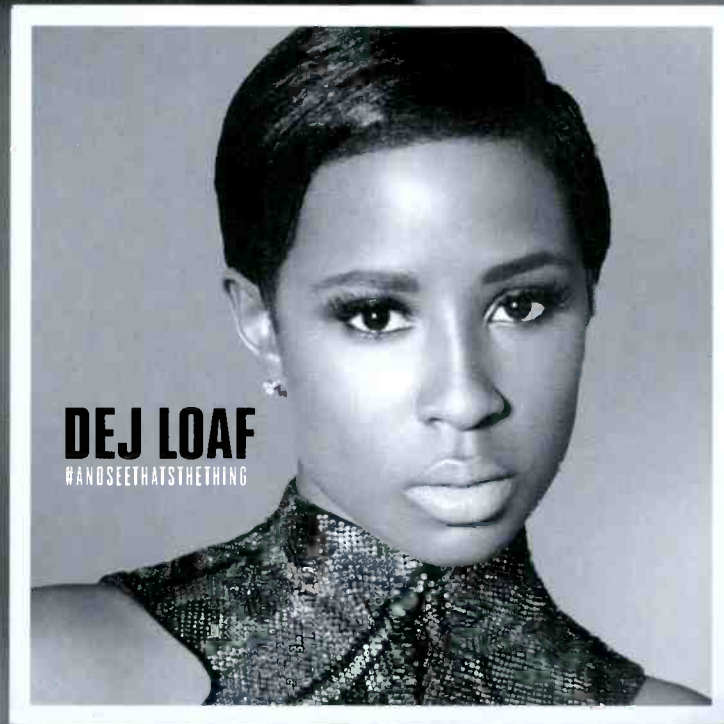
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