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BLACK ENTERTAINMENT MAGAZINE FOR 37 YEARS

ALICIA KEYS

MICHAEL JACKSON

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RCA RECORDS PRESENTS

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THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

AT THE 27th ANNUAL STELLAR AWARDS

By CALVIN TERRELL and ALEX MACKLIN

For the first time in the 28-year history of the Stellar Gospel Music Awards the annual ceremony aired live on GMCTV, broadcast from Nashville's famed Grand Ole Opry House Saturday, January 18th. The two-hour 28th Annual Stellar Awards began airing in syndicated markets January 24 and will continue to air through March 3 in over 130 markets, re-

Donnie McClurkin and Marvin Winans perform "Who Would've Thought"
—Photo by Rick Diamond/courtesy of The FrontPage Firm



Bishop T.D. Jakes received the Thomas A. Dorsey Most Notable Achievement Award for his 35 years in ministry and philanthropic work. "It has been amazing," Jakes said. "When I think back 36 years ago, I would never have imagined I'd be standing here today and I want to say thank you. In the words of my mother, whenever you see a turtle sitting on a fencepost, always remember he didn't get there by himself."

Kurt Carr received the James Cleveland Lifetime Achievement Award for his lifelong achievements in gospel. "It's a privilege to write Gospel music and stand on this stage in front of my peers receiving this award," he said. "I thank all of you and Reverend James Cleveland who gave me my start."

Among this year's performers were singer/actress Tamela Mann performing her chart-



Song of the Year, CD of the Year and Choir of the Year winner Pastor Charles Jenkins—Photo by Rick Diamond/courtesy of The FrontPage Firm

airing on GMC-TV on March 9 at 7pm and 9pm EST. Hosted by Kirk Franklin and Mary Mary's Erica and Tina, this year's Don Jackson produced event recognized two with five Stellar nods: Pastor Charles Jenkins whose five awards included Song of the Year, CD of the Year and Choir of the Year for his debut *Best of Both Worlds*; and Mary Mary whose five awards included Contemporary CD of the Year for *Go Get I*.

topping single "Take Me To The King" and gospel legend and Georgia peach, Dottie Peoples, performing her hit song "I Got This." Other performances included Tye Tribbett, who recently inked a new deal with EMI Gospel, Marvin Winans joined by Donnie McClurkin, Maurette Brown Clark, Marvin Sapp, Charles Jenkins and Israel Houghton & New Breed.

RADIO STELLARS 2013

MAJOR MARKET OF THE YEAR
WPZE - PRAISE 102.5,
ATLANTA, LORI HALL
LARGE MARKET OF THE YEAR
WCCD - 1000 AM, CLEVELAND,
DARRELL & BELINDA SCOTT
MEDIUM MARKET OF THE YEAR
WENO - 760 AM, NASHVILLE,
LADY SHAUNTE' GARRETT

SMALL MARKET OF THE YEAR
WEHA - GOSPEL 88.7 FM,
ATLANTIC CITY, ELAINE
HAWKES
NATIONAL RADIO OF THE YEAR
INSIDE GOSPEL WITH
FRANKIE WILSON, DALLAS,
DAVID LAFLORE
**GOSPEL ANNOUNCER
OF THE YEAR**
ACE ALEXANDER, SHERIDAN
GOSPEL NETWORK ATLANTA



Lori Hall, WPZE, Atlanta



WEHA founder William Hawkes with his wife, Stellar award-winner, Elaine "Lady Prayze"



Sheridan Gospel Network's Ace Alexander



WENO's Laudy Shaunte'



Kurt Carr received the James Cleveland Lifetime Achievement Award
—Photo by Getty Images for GMC TV/ courtesy of The FrontPage Firm



(l-r) Actor Rockmond Dunbar, star of GMC TV's "For Richer or Poorer" with GMC TV Vice Chairman Brad Siegel and Thomas A. Dorsey Most Notable Achievement Award winner Bishop T.D. Jakes
—Photo by Getty Images for GMC TV/courtesy of The FrontPage Firm



Gospel legends Dorothy Norwood and Shirley Caesar performed a special tribute to the late Inez Andrews who posthumously received the Ambassador Dr. Bobby Jones Legends Award.
—Photo by Getty Images for GMC TV/ courtesy of The FrontPage Firm



Michelle Williams
—Photo by Alex Macklin



Singer/actress LeToya Luckett from the GMC TV series "For Richer or Poorer"
—Photo by Getty Images for GMC TV/ courtesy of The FrontPage Firm



Co-hosts and the top winners Mary Mary
—Photo by Getty Images for GMC TV/courtesy of The FrontPage Firm



Sandra and Andre Crouch with producer Don Jackson—Photo by Alex Macklin



Stellar winners Rance Allen and Marvin Sapp
—Photo by Rick Diamond/courtesy of The FrontPage Firm



Artist of the Year, Male Vocalist of the Year, and Traditional Male of the Year winner Marvin Sapp
—Photo by Getty Images for GMC TV/ courtesy of The FrontPage Firm



Co-host Kirk Franklin with his Fo Yo Soul Entertainment artists The Walls Group.
—Photo by Getty Images for GMC TV/courtesy of The FrontPage Firm



Producer of the Year Isaac Carree with wife Dietra



Alexis Spight
—Photo by Alex Macklin



Rap/Hip Hop Gospel Winner DA T.R.U.T.H.



Show producers Emma Davis and Don Jackson
—Photo by Alex Macklin

STELLAR AWARDS 2013

ARTIST OF THE YEAR
MARVIN SAPP, I WIN, VERITY GOSPEL MUSIC GROUP

SONG OF THE YEAR
CHARLES JENKINS, AWESOME - THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS, INSPIRED PEOPLE

MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR
MARVIN SAPP, I WIN, VERITY GOSPEL MUSIC GROUP

ALBERTINA WALKER FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR
KIERRA SHEARD, FREE, KAREW RECORDS

GROUP/DUO OF THE YEAR
MARY MARY, GO GET IT, MY BLOCK/COLUMBIA RECORDS

NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR
LE'ANDRIA JOHNSON, THE AWAKENING OF LE'ANDRIA JOHNSON, MUSIC WORLD GOSPEL

CD OF THE YEAR
CHARLES JENKINS & FELLOWSHIP CHICAGO, THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS, INSPIRED PEOPLE

CHOIR OF THE YEAR
CHARLES JENKINS & FELLOWSHIP CHICAGO, THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS, INSPIRED PEOPLE

PRODUCER OF THE YEAR
ISAAC CARREE, ERIC DAWKINS, WARRYN CAMPBELL, GERALD HADDON, & RICK ROBINSON, UNCOMMON ME, SOVEREIGN AGENCY/ DOOR 6 ENTERTAINMENT

CONTEMPORARY GROUP/DUO OF THE YEAR
MARY MARY, GO GET IT, MY BLOCK/COLUMBIA RECORDS

TRADITIONAL GROUP/DUO OF THE YEAR
THE WILLIAMS BROTHERS, LIVE AT THE HARD ROCK - PART 1, BLACKBERRY RECORDS

CONTEMPORARY MALE OF THE YEAR
FRED HAMMOND, GOD, LOVE & ROMANCE, VERITY GOSPEL MUSIC GROUP

TRADITIONAL MALE OF THE YEAR
MARVIN SAPP, I WIN, VERITY GOSPEL MUSIC GROUP

CONTEMPORARY FEMALE OF THE YEAR
LE'ANDRIA JOHNSON, THE AWAKENING OF LE'ANDRIA JOHNSON, MUSIC WORLD GOSPEL

TRADITIONAL FEMALE OF THE YEAR
VANESSA BELL ARMSTRONG, TIMELESS, MUSIC WORLD GOSPEL

CONTEMPORARY CD OF THE YEAR
MARY MARY, GO GET IT, MY BLOCK/COLUMBIA RECORDS

TRADITIONAL CD OF THE YEAR
MARVIN SAPP, I WIN, VERITY GOSPEL MUSIC GROUP

URBAN/INSPIRATIONAL SINGLE OR PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR
MARY MARY, GO GET IT - GO GET IT, MY BLOCK/COLUMBIA RECORDS

MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR - SHORT FORMAT
DARREN GRANT, GO GET IT - GO GET IT, MY BLOCK/COLUMBIA RECORDS

TRADITIONAL CHOIR OF THE YEAR
CHARLES JENKINS & FELLOWSHIP CHICAGO, THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS, INSPIRED PEOPLE

SPECIAL EVENT CD OF THE YEAR
MARY MARY, GO GET IT, MY BLOCK/COLUMBIA RECORDS

RAP HIP HOP GOSPEL CD OF THE YEAR
DA T.R.U.T.H., THE WHOLE TRUTH, XIST MUSIC/BLACK FUEL ENTERTAINMENT

CHILDRENS PROJECT OF THE YEAR
ANOINTED BY GOD, ANOINTED BY GOD, ONE VOICE MEDIA

QUARTET OF THE YEAR
THE WILLIAMS BROTHERS, LIVE AT THE HARD ROCK - PART 1, BLACKBERRY RECORDS

RECORDED MUSIC PACKAGING OF THE YEAR
CHARLES JENKINS, THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS, INSPIRED PEOPLE

PRaise AND WORSHIP CD OF THE YEAR
JASON NELSON, SHIFTING THE ATMOSPHERE, VERITY GOSPEL MUSIC GROUP

JAMES CLEVELAND LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
KURT CARR

THOMAS A. DORSEY MOST NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
BISHOP T.D. JAKES

AMBASSADOR DR. BOBBY JONES LEGENDS AWARD
INEZ ANDREWS (posthumously)

CONTENTS

ISSUE #1438, 2013



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Hedi Butler, Rev. Al Sharpton Man of the Year
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WHAT RADIO DOES BETTER: Community Service

NAB

Crystal RADIO AWARDS



(l-r) David Hoxeng, WYCT-FM, Pensacola, FL; Beth Mann, WKDZ-FM, Cadiz, KY; Rick Cummings, WQHT-FM, NUC, NY; Katie Gambill, WYCT-FM, Pensacola, FL; Joel Oxley, WTOP-FM, Washington, D.C.; Jim Watkins, WHJR-FM, Washington, D.C.; Terri Avery, WPEG-FM, Charlotte, NC; Sylvia Cariker, KUZZ-FM, Bakersfield, CA; Mike Dowdle, KIRO-FM, Seattle, WA; and Jeff Simpson, KSFI-FM, Salt Lake City, UT (not shown: WCVG-FM, Clarksville, TN).

For the past 26 years the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) has been recognizing those radio stations with outstanding year-round commitments to community service in their markets. Out of more than 50 nominees, this year's honorees were recognized at the NAB Show in Las Vegas with the prestigious Crystal. Jim Watkins, general manager of the Howard University Radio Network, a repeat honoree, summed up the station's ongoing community commitment: "WHUR prides itself on being an active part of the Washington community and we are grateful to our listeners who help us to achieve excellence in community outreach."

Cover Story	ALICIA KEYS	Setting The World On Fire	22
Inside Cover Story	REV' AL SHARPTON	Man of the Hour	11
Remembering	DR DONALD BYRD	The Genius Complex	20
Spotlight	CHEF HUDA	Food+Fashion+Entertainment=My Reality	34
Spotlight	ERIC NOLAN GRANT'S	Boy Wonder Launch	32
Regional Reports		36

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



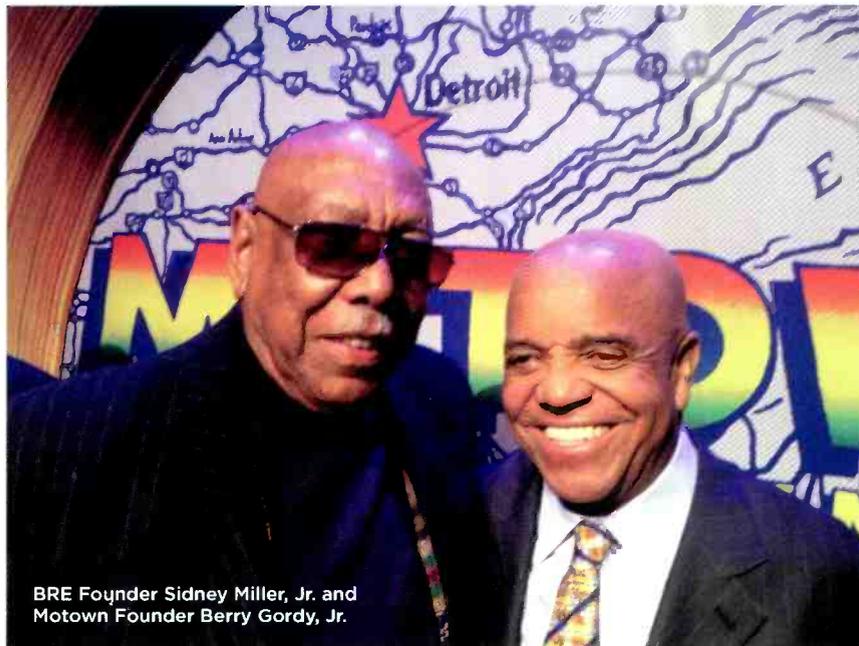
By Sidney Miller, Jr.
Founder/Chairman

Welcome Home!

Joining the Gordy family and its extended Motown family at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre in NYC for the Kevin McCollum, Doug Morris and Berry Gordy presentation of "Motown The Musical" in its latest reincarnation on its journey from Detroit to Hollywood and now to the lights of Broadway, I was more than impressed with the quality of performances that brought Motown founder Berry Gordy's original story based on his book "To Be Loved: The Music, The Magic, The Memories of Motown" to this famed Nederlander venue where it is already a sold-out theatrical hit. The Motown music is resplendent, with current performers recreating that legendary Motown sound far beyond my expectations, especially, the young Jibreel Mawry, who played the role of young Michael Jackson. Almost 60 songs from the Motown catalog, now reposited with Sony/ATV Music Publishing, are performed from "ABC" to "You've Really Got A Hold On Me" against a backdrop of drama that Gordy relates of the creation of Motown.

"At Motown, we called ourselves a family and we were—a big family," says Gordy in his show notes, adding, "While it is impossible to list here the many people who helped create Motown with their love and passion, I personally want to thank them all. Their dedication and talent contributed to our success, as well as helped to inspire me to bring our story to Broadway. Motown was a dream that happened to come true, and it's because of all of you."

And there in that audience was that family that included longtime Motown stalwart Edna Anderson, Brian and Eddie



BRE Founder Sidney Miller, Jr. and
Motown Founder Berry Gordy, Jr.

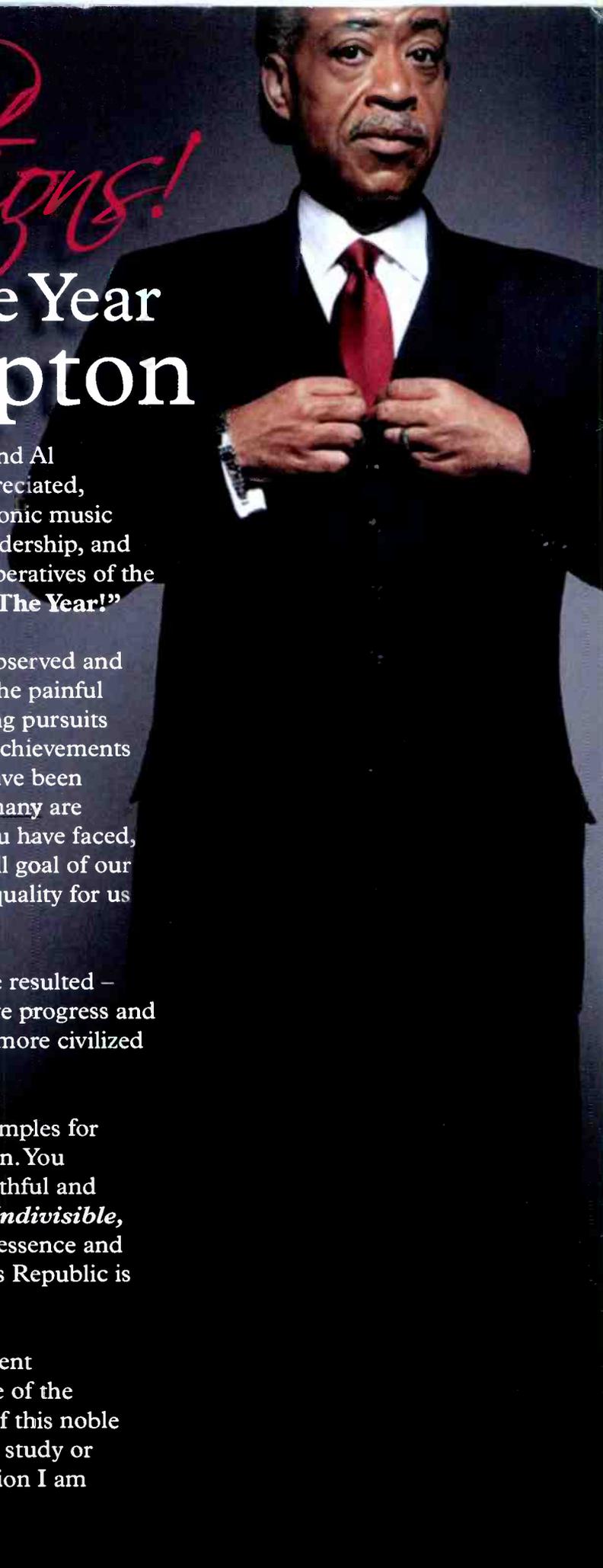
Holland, Pete Moore, Smokey Robinson, Chris Clark, Duke Fakir, Claudette Robinson, Dennis Edwards, Jermaine, Jackie and Tito, Martha Reeves, Miller London, Maxine Powell, Mildred Gill-Arbor and so many who supported Gordy's passion to answer his inner calling of 'why not.' When the landlord who first sold him the house on West Grand in Detroit in 1959 expressed alarm saying he couldn't be making

too much noise there, Gordy assured her it wouldn't be a bunch of noise, but a virtual hit factory. Later nicknamed Hitsville U.S.A., the site is now the Motown Historical Museum and the Motown sounds are forever etched in the memories of the world.

Just as Gordy talks about Motown and the family being the dream that came true, BRE's Entertainer of the Decade, RCA Music Group artist Alicia Keys speaks about family too and creating the world you want—"the 'home' that pushes me to do the things I had always imagined." She expresses Gordy's mantra in her own words: "You can never lose when you're passionate about your place in the world and believe in the choices you've made along the way."

Rev. Al Sharpton, BRE's Man of the year, is the epitome of that sentiment too. Passionate about keepin' it real, Sharpton continues to envelop us all in his dream for a world of justice and peace, ever vigilant to that task of enfoldng us in a home where everyone is welcome.

To them all and to all the 'drummers among us' who stay true to their inner callings, passionate about creating their places in the world, I salute you all and welcome the many still to come!



Congratulations!

BRE's Man of the Year Rev. Al Sharpton

I salute, applaud, and congratulate you – Reverend Al Sharpton – as you have become recognized, appreciated, and anointed by and through this historic and iconic music entertainment media institution (“BRE”), its leadership, and all of us that are the leaders, components, and operatives of the music entertainment industry, as **“The Man of The Year!”**

It is most befitting because, since 1977, I have observed and supported you, where possible, as you endured the painful sacrifices you encountered during your unyielding pursuits of Justice and Equality! Your contributions and achievements have been numerous and wide-ranging. Some have been known, some have been “misunderstood,” and many are “unknown”...but regardless of the challenges you have faced, you have continued, without ceasing, your overall goal of our realizing and achieving Freedom, Justice, and Equality for us as American citizens.

I submit that in many instances your efforts have resulted – without being obvious or understood – in positive progress and growth for humanity, and have contributed to a more civilized or culturally advanced human society.

You have set, and continue to set, leadership examples for the present and future generations of our children. You have instilled in all of us the belief in, and the faithful and fearless pursuit of, **“One Nation Under God, Indivisible, With Liberty and Justice For All.”** This is the essence and elemental core of what being an American in this Republic is genuinely all about.

Your individual endeavors, evolution, and current accomplishments are the testimony and evidence of the authenticity, the legitimacy, and the soundness of this noble and honorable American principle. A reasonable study or review of your life profoundly supports the position I am sharing here.

As the years passed and I grew to know you better, from afar, my discernment of you increased and I began to connect and relate directly to the *“spirit that lives”* in the body we identify as Reverend Al Sharpton. With all respect and honor due to you, I hasten to call attention to the fact that *“this spirit”* is the *“very essence or identifying nature”* of the man we call Al Sharpton!

I particularly and fondly think back upon an occasion when you were running for President of the United States of America. I believe this was after a debate or national television interview you had given or had been involved in, and I said to you in the hallway during one of your visits to Rev. Jackson’s Operation PUSH, *“Reverend Sharpton: What you said, and the position and stand you took during that event, made me proud to be a Black Man!!!”*

I have observed your personal progress and career advancements with awe and amazement. From my vantage point the position you hold now and your social, cultural, political, and economic influence on Americans and American life is an enviable phenomenon.

I appreciate your work through your National Action Network. Thank You!

I appreciate your information, your objective analysis, and your editorial comments on your MSNBC-TV *“Politics Nation.”* I thank MSNBC for providing you with this platform!

It is my prayer that America will appreciate you for the role you played in the *re-election* of Barack Hussein Obama as President of the United States of America. I also pray that the Creator of the Universe will manifest His will through President Barack Obama in a manner that is *“good for the healing of the nation – and for all the peoples of the world!”*

I have heard you refer to the role James (*“The Godfather Of Soul”*) Brown played in your life. James Brown loudly, proudly, and without hesitation referred to himself as the *“Hardest Working Man In Show Business!”*

I don’t know all of the influences James Brown had on your *“Life or your Attitude”* but it is obvious that his *“Hardest Working Man Attitude”* was etched into your brain and into your very existence. For regardless of whatever arena or activity you choose, or are *“led”* to operate in, you excel based on your Attitude exhibited in becoming the *“Hardest Working Man”* in pursuit of excellence. For that, among so many other things, I admire and respect you!

Reverend Al Sharpton: Your “Work” has just begun because “if we ever needed you before, we sure do need you now!” And I know that you know exactly what I mean!

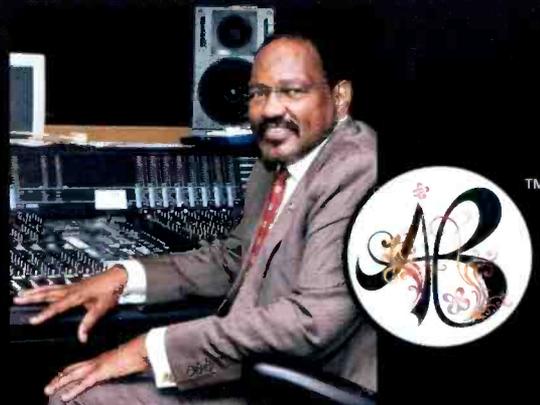
I overwhelmingly congratulate you as *“THE MAN OF THE YEAR!”*

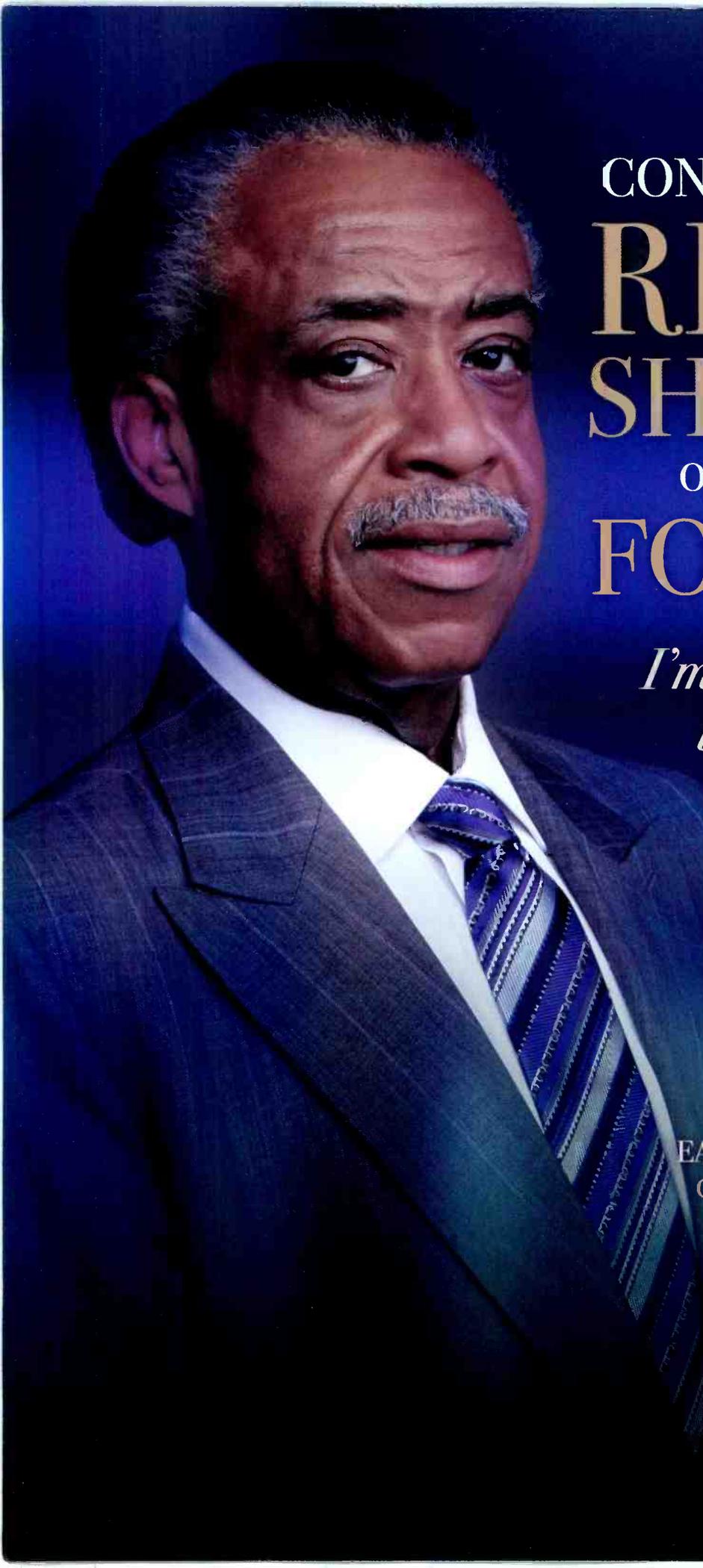
The Creator continues to bless us.

Very Respectfully,

Al Bell

Founder and CEO of Al Bell Presents, LLC
(A Music Entertainment and Communications Company.)





CONGRATULATIONS!
**REV. AL
SHARPTON**
ON ALWAYS MOVING
FORWARD!

*I'm so glad we're on
the same team.*



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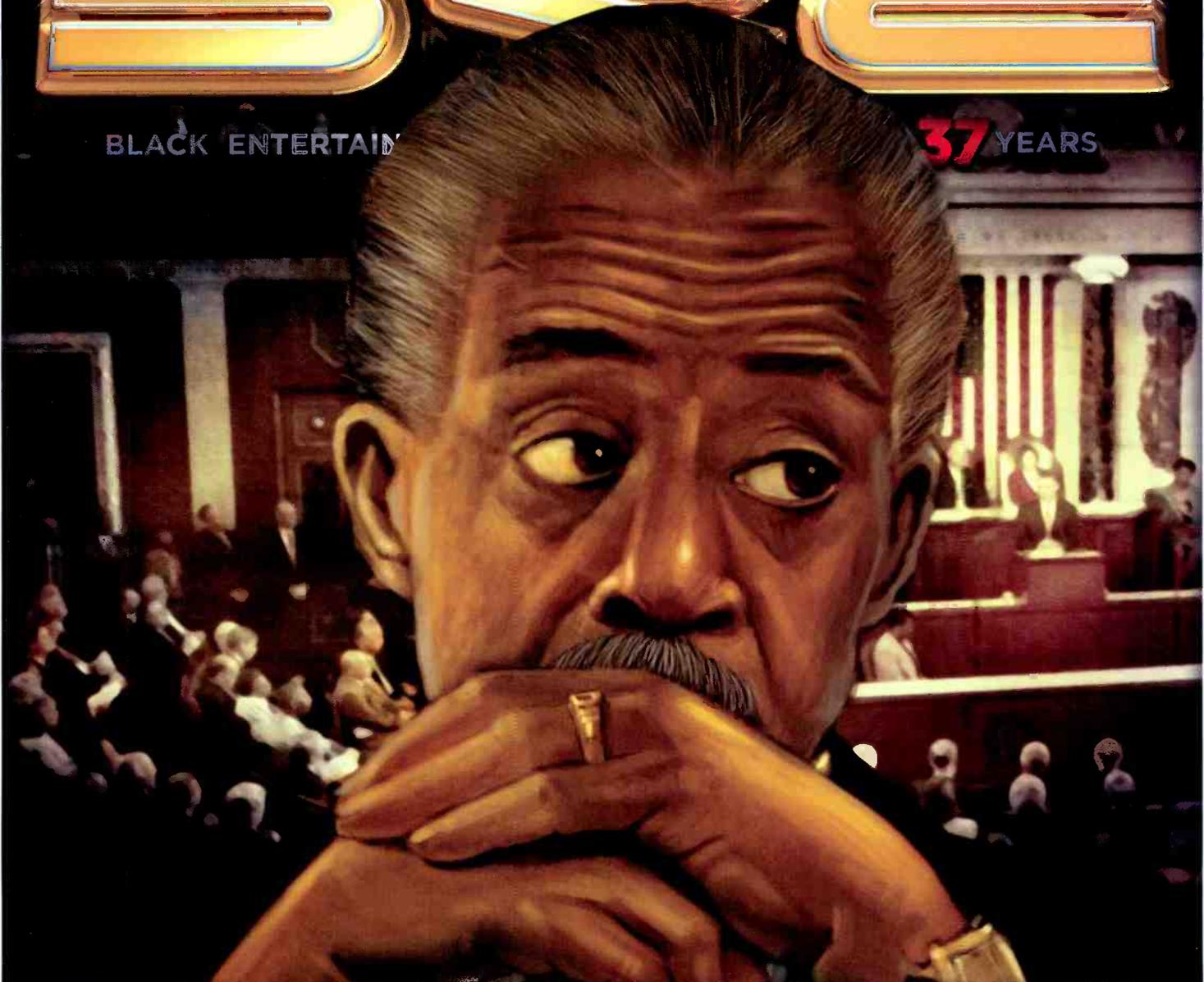
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37 YEARS



REV. AL SHARPTON

BRE'S MAN OF THE YEAR

2015
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hen MSNBC reported a huge ratings increase at the end of last year that overall gave the network a 20% ratings boost, analysts attributed the growth to a 60.5% increase of black viewership. And MSNBC president Phil Griffith explained it this way: "...we made a commitment, we decided, that in order for this channel to succeed, that we had to reflect the country. This meant that we had to be part of the country in ways that the other channels weren't." And it was Griffith who signed up political activist Rev. Al Sharpton to host his own "Politics Nation" nightly show from 6pm-7pm EST giving him the vote of confidence by saying, "Anything he does on the streets, he can talk about on air -- we won't hide anything."

That confidence has paid off big time for MSNBC as "Politics Nation" is directly attributed for the increase in viewers that made Sharpton's straight talk show second in the ratings for cable news in that timeslot for both total viewers as well as those between ages 25-54. Sharpton is fast approaching a million viewers to his nightly hour-long show.

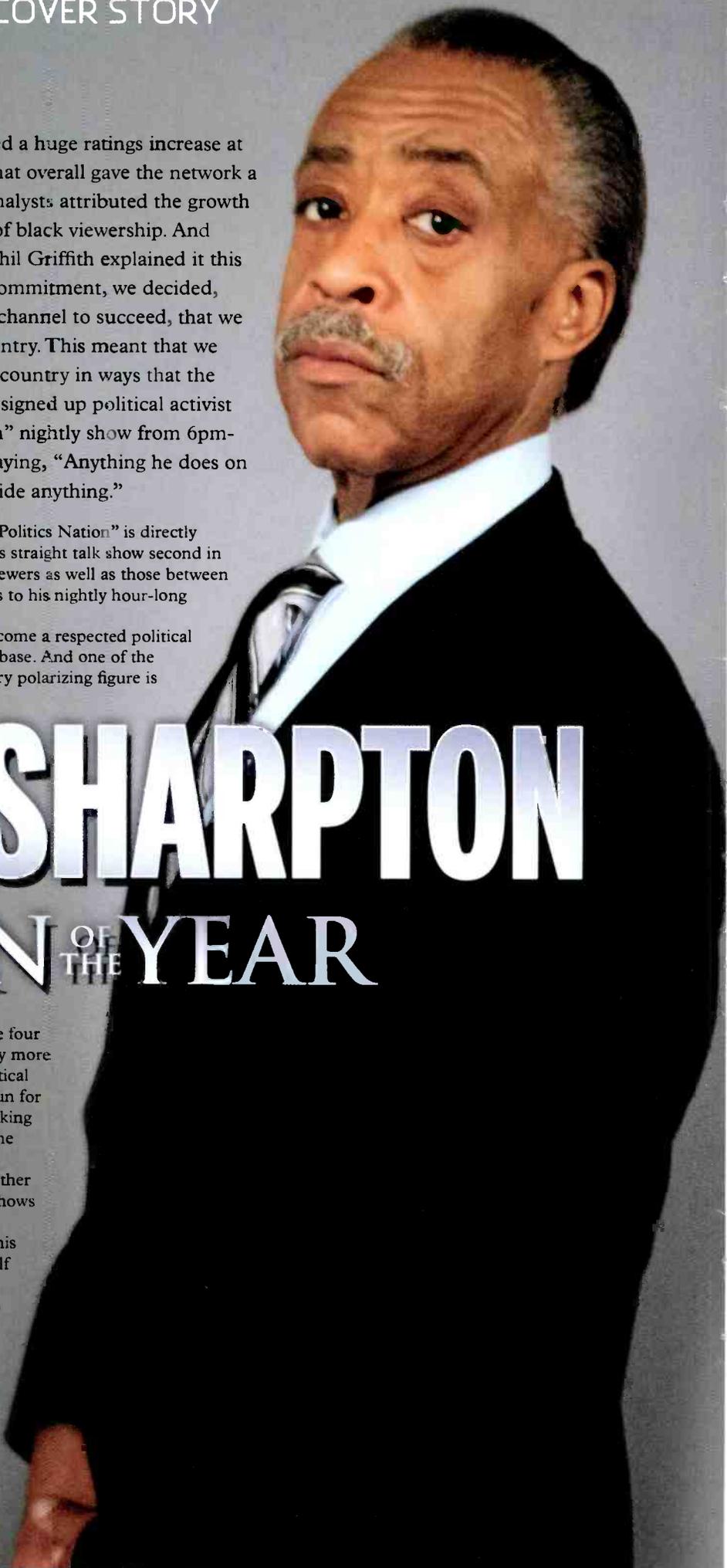
And they're not all African-American. Sharpton has become a respected political pundit appealing across the boards, albeit still to a liberal base. And one of the main reasons for this reaction to what had once been a very polarizing figure is Sharpton's authenticity.

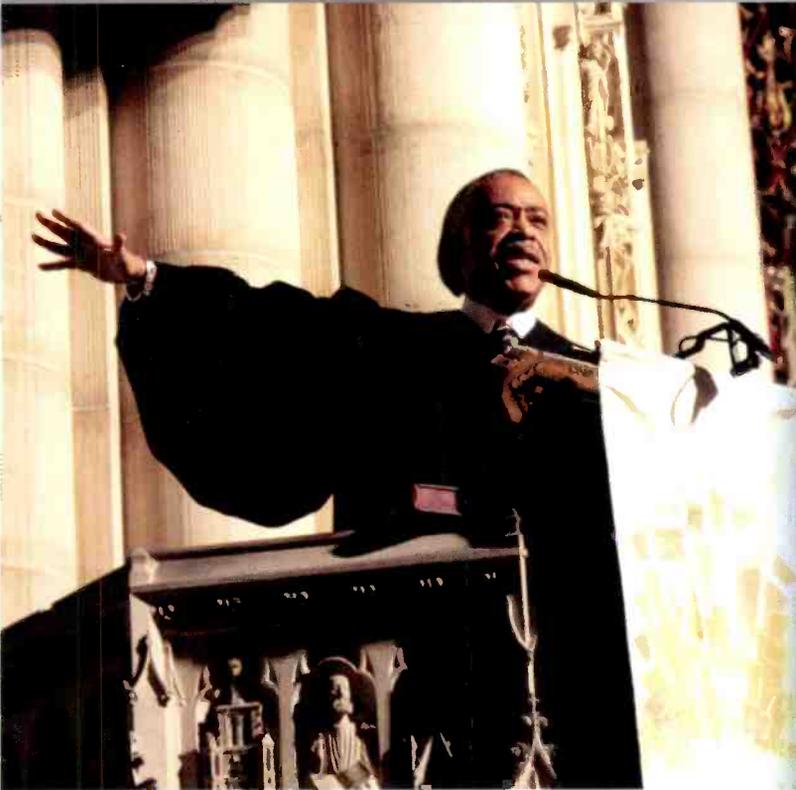
REV. AL SHARPTON

BRE'S MAN OF THE YEAR

The sharp-tongued orator, who started preaching at age four and traveled on the road with Mahalia Jackson, is probably more comfortable in front of an audience than many of the political candidates who've run for office. Sharpton, himself, has run for mayor, senator and president at one time or another. Thinking on his feet was always his forte as well as his downfall, some might say.

Crediting his longtime mentor James Brown, the Godfather of Soul, for whom he was the hype man or opener of his shows as well as close friend, Sharpton spoke at Brown's funeral delivering an eloquent eulogy at the Apollo Theater from his heart as if he were Brown's son, an affection Brown himself often expressed. "Mr. Brown shines for us when nobody else would," Sharpton said, saying that it was Brown "who made us respect ourselves so others would respect us." With such anthems as "I'm Black and I'm Proud" and statements like "I'd rather die on my feet than die on my knees," Sharpton recited the strong life lessons of life Brown had instilled in him. "We all are one family," Sharpton says Brown espoused, expressing a loyalty, integrity and dignity that Sharpton has embraced for his fellowman.



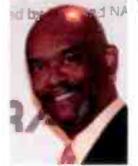


Supporting his meteoric television ratings, Sharpton revels in his weekly radio show for Radio One Inc.'s Syndication One talk show "Keepin' It Real with Rev Al Sharpton." Heard now on more than 40 radio stations across the country, the show is open to callers, whom Sharpton openly engages, jumping in to skillfully redirect when the opinion veers astray. Radio One founder Cathy Hughes

continued on page 15



Sharpton has been in the streets standing up for the oppressed long before it was popular to so do and he has the battle scars to prove it. I salute him as BRE's Man of the Year!—**Jim Watkins, GM Howard University Radio WHUR**



Rev. Sharpton has carved a path and made his own destiny come to life, in the process guaranteeing that he will not die an irrelevant man. He is a true hero to people of color everywhere. Sharpton has put himself in harms way many times to fight for the underserved, proving again and again that he is a man for the people, about the people. Rev. Sharpton is my man of the year every year.—**Jazzy Jordan, Jordan Webster Group**



The arc of Al Sharpton's remarkable personal life journey may be long and winding, but it bends admirably towards noteworthy growth through disciplined self-transformation in a mission to help others. His story is a powerful tale of overcoming great adversity by faithfully using the God-given talents he was blessed with: first, as a gifted and precocious child preacher; next as a dedicated protégé of iconic superstar James Brown in his community development efforts; then a committed social political activist under the tutelage of civil rights leader Rev. Jesse Jackson; and finally a stalwart media/protest leader in his own right for victims of racial and social injustice.

His later emergence as a political candidate, respected radio and cable television host of highly rated programs on both Radio One and MSNBC, and finally as an ally, trusted confidant, and sometimes counselor to President Obama on pressing national issues is just short of amazing.

The only thing more impressive, in my view, is his recent decision to become a vegetarian and then promptly lose over 100 pounds for healthful reasons, while still actively pursuing his many endeavors successfully against a strident array of haters and naysayers.

The Rev. Al is indeed a worthy role model now to those of us who believe that life is what you make of it, proving you can make it if you use your talents in disciplined ways on an ongoing quest to develop a path for yourself through inner spiritual growth and outer social political struggle. His evolution as a master communicator fearlessly speaking truth to power is a shining beacon to us, spotlighting how to move forward more effectively by continuing to acquire and apply knowledge to one's personal growth in a way, which still helps others.

And it seems he is just now hitting his stride!

I believe we can expect even more from the amazing Rev. Al as his social media relevance, political prowess and distinguished stature as an accomplished Black American citizen activist in the relentless fight for equal rights and social justice for *all* continues to grow.

I certainly hope so.—**Dr. Don Mizell**



Congratulations Rev. Sharpton on being named BRE's Man of the Year. You are the new voice of the oppressed. MSNBC should honor you too... with more money for taking their ratings up by 20 points.—**Clarence Avant, Founder Sussex Records/Interior Music, aka "The Godfather of the Black Music Industry"**



Al Sharpton's ability to understand the equation has given him a seat at the table and participation in the conversation. Keep making it plain Rev. Sharpton; you're on the right side of history, and I have nothing but love for you.—**Maxx Myrick, OM WHUR-FM (96.3), Washington, D.C.**

The selection of Rev. Al Sharpton as the BRE Magazine "Man of the Year" is a timely and most appropriate choice. Rev. Sharpton was outstanding in his coverage of the politics of the

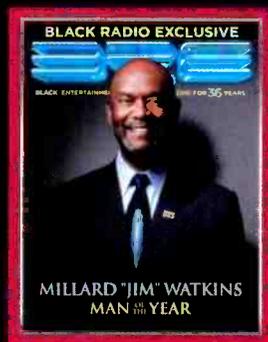
As BRE's Man of the Year 2011,
I salute this year's
BRE Man of the Year 2012,

REV. AL SHARPTON

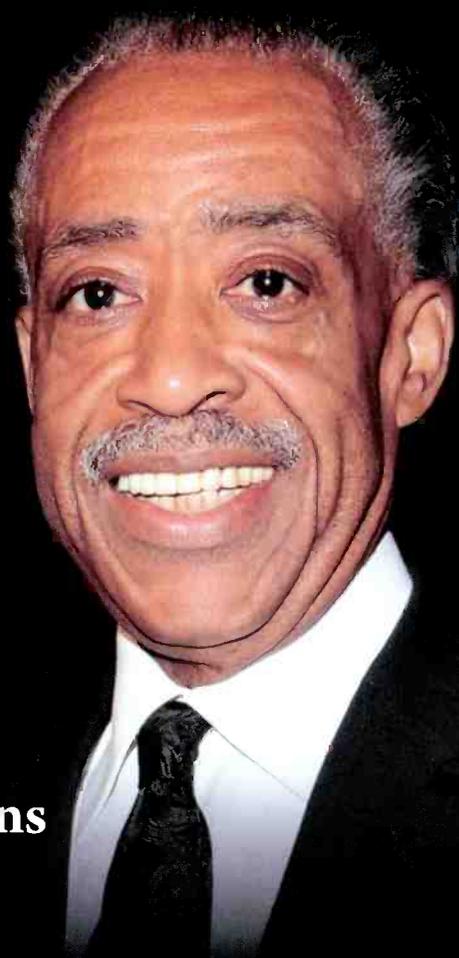
Rev. Al has been in the streets
standing up for the oppressed
long before it was popular and
he has the battle scars to prove it.

Congratulations on this
most prestigious honor!

You deserve it!

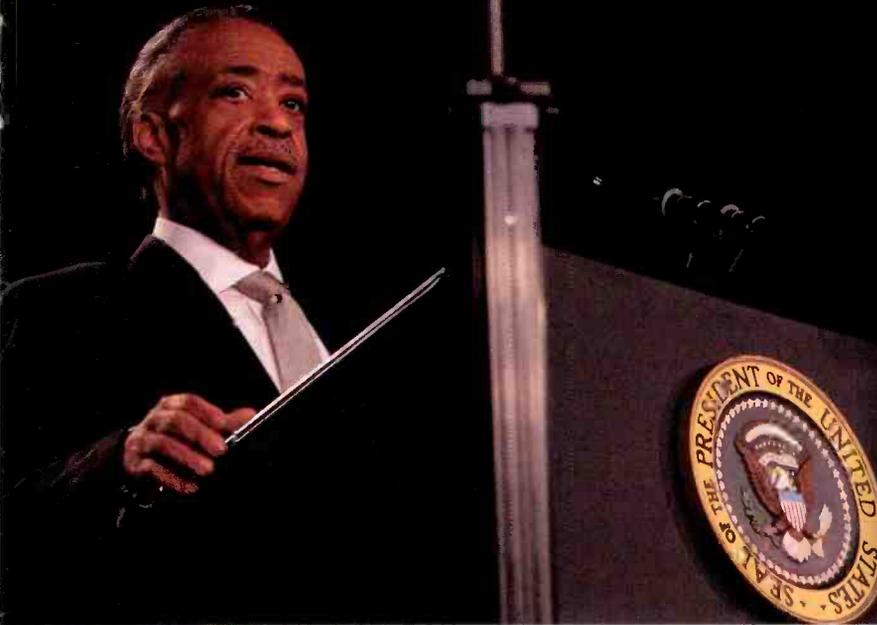


Millard "Jim" Watkins
General Manager
Howard University Radio Network
BRE Man of the Year 2011



AL SHARPTON MAN OF THE YEAR

continued from page 13



added Sharpton's show seven years ago and it has become a mainstay talk show in African-American homes. A powerbase from which he mobilized some 30,000 protestors to Sanford, Florida in support of the unarmed shooting of Trayvon Martin.

And even though he's cleaned up for the cameras, losing more than 100 pounds and adopting a healthier lifestyle, the 59 year old Sharpton stays true to his roots and his causes which all center around the fight for justice, regardless of the race, politics or power.

Founder of the National Action Network, NAN, that is rapidly growing and developing chapters around the country, Sharpton, trained by another political activist and former presidential candidate Rev. Jesse Jackson on how to work the street organizations, has proven to be a fast study. As well as a solution-oriented pragmatist. His annual NAN conferences promote action agenda and produce action playlists for those attending to take back to their

continued on page 17



most recent elections and the various issues relevant to it. As I think about it, Rev. Sharpton has really *Come of Age* as an excellent news person and I totally endorse BRE's selection of someone who is as on top of things that are relevant to the nation as a whole and

African-Americans in particular. Leave it to Sidney Miller and BRE Magazine to be on the vanguard of "Keeping It Real."—**Dr. Patricia A. Newton, M.D., MPH, M.A., Immediate Past President, Black Psychiatrists of America & Board of Directors - Royal Circle Foundation**

What an honor for a well deserving Man! I can't think of a man that deserves this BRE Man of The Year Award more. Rev. Sharpton and I go back to the days with The GFOS James Brown and beyond. Sharpton always fought for civil rights and continues fighting for what's right in this country, no matter how big or small the issue might be. Congratz Rev. Al on all of your accomplishments and on all you do for the country. I know The GFOS James Brown would be very proud of you and so am I.—**Minnesota Fattz, Director of Urban Program Mgr, Clear Channel Media + Entertainment, Augusta, GA**



Al Sharpton is a beloved figure that has been at the forefront of our struggles from the beginning. He is a man who has dedicated his life to bringing about social and political changes. Lately, Al has found a new paradigm of leadership for a changing, more ambiguous era. He is supremely talented and intensely dedicated. His life and career tell a story of personal excellence and profound choices. I am happy he is being recognized as BRE's Man Of The Year.—**Jerry Boulding, Urban/Urban AC Editor, All Access Music Group**

To many, Reverend Sharpton is a loyal activist, a strong leader, a man for the oppressed and a great preacher. To me, he is a brother and friend because he was like a son to my father, Mr. James Brown, The Godfather of Soul. Rev, talk about LOVE! Congratulations on being BRE's Man of the Year.



—**Deanna Brown Thomas, President, The Brown Family Children Foundation, Inc. (www.jamesbrownfamilyfdn.org)**

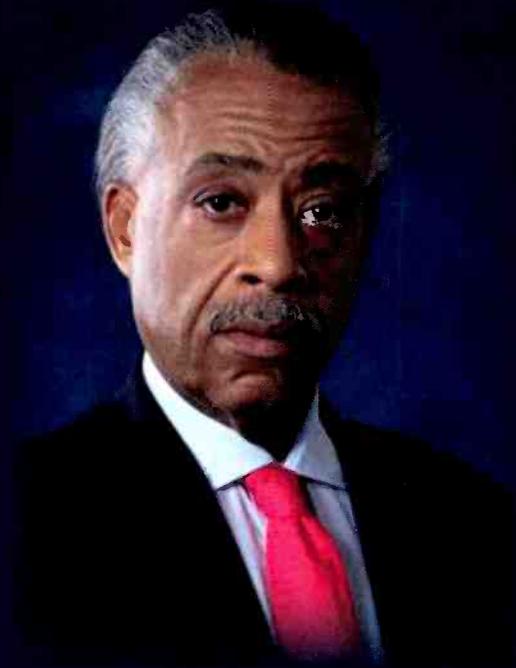


Congratulates Reverend Al Sharpton on being selected as BRE Magazine's *Man of the Year*. Rev. Sharpton, you have helped to shape the way a generation has grown up and the way we are seen through the eyes of the world. Thank you for your contribution.—**Regina Brown, Regina's "Gossip Fix"**

Rev. Al is unbought and unbossed! He is the last of an era of leadership sincerely committed to helping our community! I only wish he could be cloned!!



Rev. Sharpton is what I call 'The Last of the Mohicans' and yet the dawning of a new vocalization era. He publicly voices controversial points of views.—**Vince Wilburn, Jr. of Miles Davis Properties, LLC**



Al,
Like the song says,
we go a long way back...
...since our days in Jr. High School.

You have always advocated for equality and opportunity
for those less fortunate.

May God always bless you and congratulations on being chosen for

BRE'S MAN OF THE YEAR!

Ruben Rodriguez



www.RubenRodriguezEntertainment.net



www.RamTalentGroup.com



www.PendulumRecords.com

AL SHARPTON MAN OF THE YEAR

continued from page 15

communities with realizable steps to enact. In other words, it's not just rhetoric for Sharpton; it's accountable action as well.

Equally at home on the digital streets, unlike many activists from the civil rights era, Sharpton has embraced twitter, facebook and other social media, in the process becoming an avid blogger. Just as his MSNBC sound bytes are crisp, succinct and memorable, this street poet proves an admirable adversary on the net where words are at a premium and minimalism wins the viewer.

Embracing the social media as a conduit to the communities, Sharpton resembles the similar very effective utilization of social media by another political figure, President Barack Obama, whom he has championed from his beginning and continues to champion.



That support has gained Sharpton an inside track to the White House where he has been a frequent visitor, called upon for his ideas as well as his reach into the community.

Even though his demos both at radio and television skew to the over 25 crowd,

Sharpton carries street cred with the younger generation as well. Just like some rappers describe their stabbings or wear their gunshot wounds as badges of courage, Sharpton survived a stabbing into his chest as he protested at a rally in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn. He wears his time spent in jail proudly too--he was jailed for protesting on Vieques Island. Founder of the National Youth Movement, he's paid his dues both in and out of the media as well, taken the punches and come back fighting, although this time realizing the power of the tailored suit instead of the purple jumpsuits he made famous.

Sharpton, the first to admit to his growth and new maturity, avows that he's still that little kid Jesse Jackson named director of



Al Sharpton

has the intestinal fortitude of a giant!
I think of the commercial "Nobody bothers me" when I see Al Sharpton.

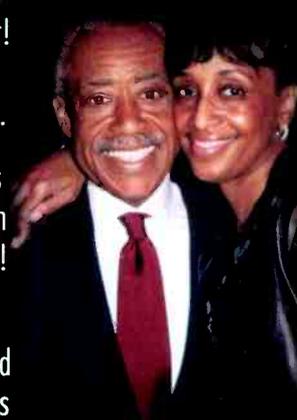
Unique in style and serious about his mission, the world has certainly been his stage and he has made us proud!

Al Sharpton has made a tremendous difference in so many of our lives and he has brought to the forefront issues which needed to be addressed and he has served the African American and Minority Communities well.

Congratulations Al on all of your accomplishments and know that so many of us join you in your quest and pray that everything you have done and continue to do will come to fruition.

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Operation Breadbasket at age 15. He perhaps picks his fights now with more of an eye toward the bigger picture of what can be accomplished, with a more pointed wit than rousing rhetoric, with more statesman-like maneuvering but with still the same resolve and insistence that justice prevail for all. No justice. No peace.

To this Pentecostal minister who has dedicated his life for the past 50 plus years to this struggle, fighting from the trenches--whether they be in the streets or the internet, on the airwaves or television, the White House or the boardrooms--BRE applauds Rev. Al Sharpton, naming him BRE's Man of the Year.

The Godfather would be so proud!

As a child I was brought to National Action Network (NAN) with my parents who were founding members and the president, Reverend Al Sharpton, took me under his wings. Today, some 20 years later now as National Executive Director of NAN, I thank Rev. Al who has groomed me and others to fulfill the rich tradition of 21st Century civil rights activism. He is a tireless advocate for social justice and has created a lane in activism that is unparalleled. I am honored to be among his staff and to continue his work. —**Tamika D. Mallory, National Executive Director, National Action Network**



The measure of a man is compounded with many ingredients, although, sometimes we use the word *man* too loosely. You see, every male does not measure up to being called a *man*. The Reverend Al Sharpton is certainly worthy though. He's earned this right as a leader in the village.



I have known Rev. Al since he was four years old and had the pleasure of watching him grow into the man he is today. Even as a boy, he was a *Manchild*.

Always a champion of the underdog and fighter for the poor, he was blessed with these innate abilities to be able to deliver a full sermon or a speech before hundreds or thousands and never use a script.

I am so very proud of the positions he holds today; every award and accolade he receives he deserves. I am very proud to call him *My Nephew* and now BRE's Man Of The Year. —**Uncle "King Ro" Conley, President & CEO JOTT Public Relations & Promotions Company**

Rev. Al Sharpton has dedicated his life to the advancement, equality and rights of not only the African American community, but also our global community. We need more thinkers like Rev. Sharpton. —



Bo Benton, artist/producer/CEO Goldstarr Entertainment

This is an appropriate honor being bestowed on Rev. Al Sharpton who has dedicated his life's work to fighting for equality for all Americans. —**Attorney Sanford Rubenstein**



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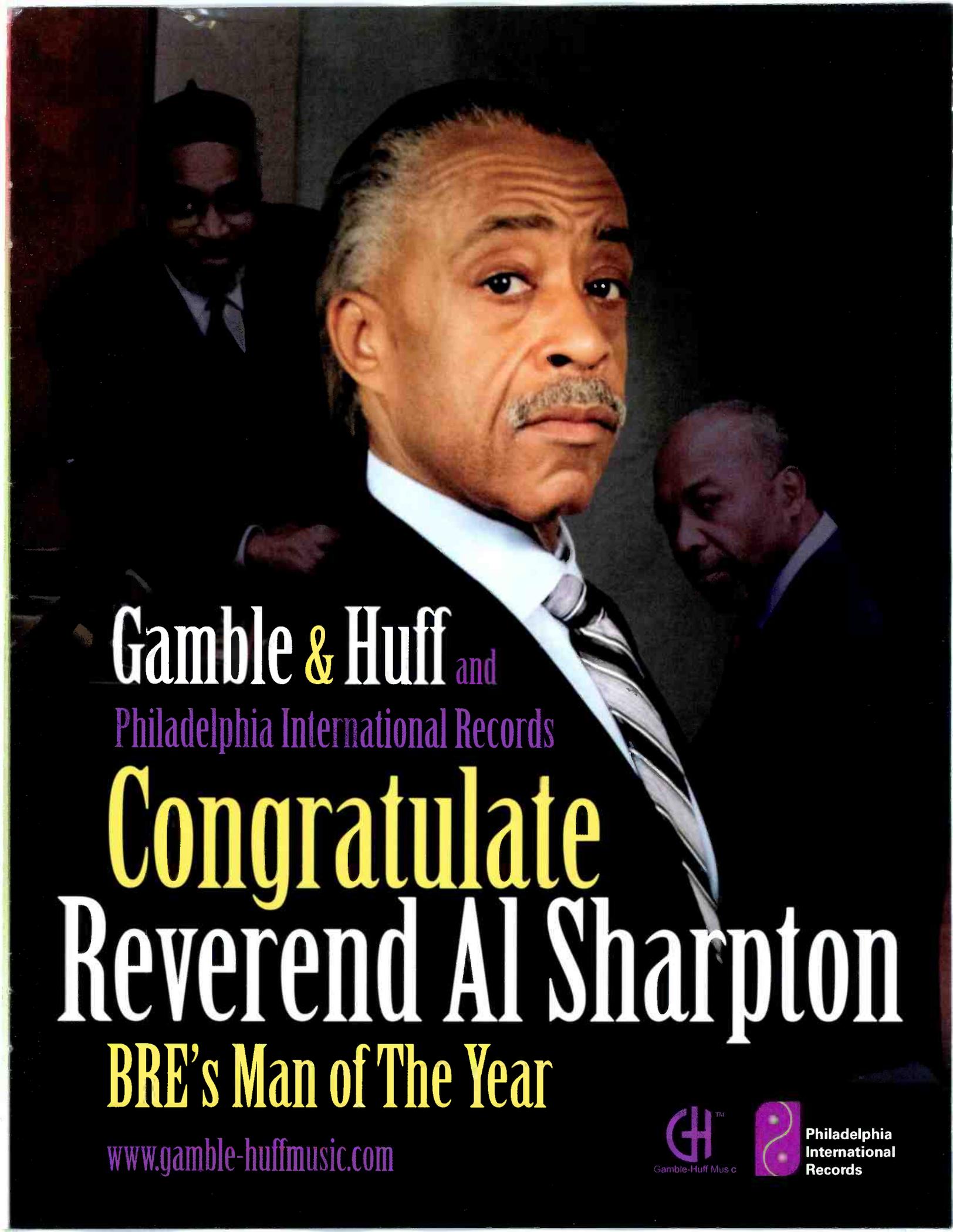
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REMEMBERING

DR. DONALD BYRD

AND THE GENIUS COMPLEX (1932-2013)

BY DON MIZELL AND PRIMUS ROBINSON

The nature of “genius” is hard to pin down or be definitively described. The best approach to its perception may be in paraphrasing Justice Potter Stewart: “I can’t define it, but I know it when I see it.” Or hear it. With music, the aura of the artist genius is best reflected in the study of their production, the subtle vagaries of intent, and the difficulty of comprehending their full personality, which is often full of contradictory complexity. Some notable examples are Picasso’s great depictions of women juxtaposed against his notorious insensitivity to the ladies in his life; Einstein’s genius allowed the pursuit of atomic weapons but he thereafter regretted his contribution to their development; Charlie Parker’s soaring genius of improvisation resembles the chase of an elusive dragon, a beast that eventually chased him to his own grave. Yes, genius is complicated and full of enigmatic contradiction.

So it was with Donaldson Toussaint L’Ouverture Byrd II, a paradigm of such genius, if ever

there was one. Donald was a superlative trumpet player and a savvy record producer, a keen discoverer and developer of new jazz musical talent, a master educator and erudite cultural historian, a pioneer in the advancement of musician’s rights and their financial security, a connoisseur and early collector of great, fine African American visual artworks, and a sharp, even ruthless, businessman as well. A helluva cat all the way around, and a ‘real mutha fa ya.’

Born in Detroit in 1933, Donald went from the U.S. Army Band to being the replacement for the legendary Clifford Brown in the world’s most renowned jazz finishing school, Art Blakey and The Jazz Messengers.

He was the next stellar hard bopper in the line of Dizzy and a near peer to the all-time cultural champion, Miles Davis. During his period of ascending creativity in the ‘50s and ‘60s, he performed with every major Jazz musician around: Coltrane, Eric Dolphy, Oscar Peterson, Horace Silver, Jackie McClean, and on and on. Donald Byrd was the new trumpeter with a fresh technique and enviable tone.

Naturally, Byrd then formed his own groups, starting in 1959 with baritone player Pepper Adams, and the young lions came a-running to hunt for new challenges on the expanding savanna of jazz ideas. He was the first to fully expose the precocious roar of Herbie Hancock, the pianist who got his start in Donald’s band and went on to restructure music in myriad dimensions only a quantum physicist can understand, stopping along the way to create a Grammy Album of The Year, *The River*, which pays tribute to his antecedent masters like ‘Trane and Miles, among others. Byrd was Herbie’s first mentor. Great students like Kevin Toney and the Mizell Brothers were a Donald Byrd hallmark creation throughout his career. Like Herbie, they were all schooled in more than just music composition and performance. Herbie says one of the greatest lessons learned from Mr. Byrd was the importance of holding on to one’s intellectual property like publishing. Byrd knew how to get paid, often at other’s expense.

Donald Byrd’s album production started in 1959 and extended for more than 40 years and 40 albums. His early efforts, pure jazz works which are held in high esteem because LPs like *Free Form* and *A New Perspective* are works comparable to the greatest of the era. And the singular “Cristo Redentor” is an iconic work, easily one of the most inspirational jazz pieces of all time.

Donald’s parallel achievements in other arenas may indicate his greatest gift to society. He became one of black music’s greatest educators and historians. He eventually earned the honor to be addressed as Doctor Donald Byrd, and his credentials are all legitimate and extensive. From a bachelor’s degree in music at Wayne State University to a master’s in music from Manhattan School of Music, he must have felt the need to focus on the word “business” in the common phrase “music business,” because he studied Law at Delaware State University and received a Doctorate in Education at Teachers College of Columbia University. And teach he did — from the classrooms of large and small colleges to the streets and stages where the music is conceived and performed to the corporate boardrooms where he held his own in complex negotiations. Each lesson was tailored and often punctuated with Donald’s penchant for sometimes overly ‘Tough Love,’ which sometimes included pocketing *their* cash. But he loved to take young gifted and talented students under his wing to show them the ropes of life, regaling them with fantastical



tales from far and wide on the inside dope on life in the fast lane, getting over, Byrd-style. He was a big man, with a big personality, a big imagination and very a big appetite for the finer things of life.

Out of the role of educator/mentor came Dr. Byrd’s next re-invention, one that took his musical career to unprecedented commercial heights. First, he encountered his equals in modern music creative development. He hooked up with his brilliant former students, the Mizell Brothers—Larry and Fonce—in the early seventies. The

three together created a whole new dynamic in music sound that would influence popular music well into the rap era. (Larry and Fonce Mizell deserve their own chapters in any music history of the era.) The Mizell brothers and Donald produced music that shook up the definition of what was considered *Hit* black music with ear and mind-blowing grooves, melodies and harmonies. Their works, *Black Byrd*, *Places and Spaces* and *Street Lady* became the best-selling records in the storied history of Blue Note Records. They blended sophisticated funk and rhythm & blues with melodic, mellow jazz that captured the expanded minds of that liberated era and added "Intellectual Party" to their oeuvre.

The next re-invention found Dr. Byrd turning to a new set of protégés. A source of talent more malleable, eager to please and demonstrate the results of his tutelage. He again enlisted his best music students at Howard University, and in 1973 formed The Blackbyrds, including such prodigies as Kevin Toney. Their first, self-titled work was a landmark in jazz fusion and today is still one of the most sampled works in hip hop. Tracks like "Rock Creek Park" and "Walking in Rhythm" helped form the bedrock of emerging urban FM radio. But again, the complexity of Donald created a schism to sincere communication, even with malleable disciples, who learned from this master. And again, after brilliant works, the parties stopped short of their full potential. And again, lessons learned formed appreciative memories.

Standout Blackbyrd Kevin Toney emailed this reverence:

"One of my favorite stories about Donald Byrd is how he would have band meetings after our shows. In the Blackbyrds' early days after our performances we all wanted to talk to the ladies who were in the audience and waiting to meet us. But professor and bandleader Byrd (as he wanted every one to call him) would always take us to task first. Byrd would give evaluations to each band member and would be quick to point out our mistakes and humble us to want and go practice. He would sometimes use harsh language to get his point across if any member was too full of pride to be humble enough to receive his guidance." Some members couldn't take the pressure and left the group, Toney reflects, "but for me it made me want to practice and achieve my very best... Donald's ethic of demanding and teaching excellence remains a cornerstone of my ongoing musical evolution today."

Dr. Don Mizell, a scion of the legendary Mizell family in music, created and launched the JazzFusion imprint at Elektra in the late '70s, signing and creatively shepherding such promising talents as DeeDee Bridgewater, Lee Ritenour, Patrice Rushen, Terry Callier, Miki Howard, Lenny White Band and violinist Michael White. And he gave Grover Washington and Donald Byrd million dollar contracts, unprecedented for Black jazz artists at that time. Don served as Byrd's Executive Producer for his Elektra releases, which, notably, turned out to be his very last album recordings.

Byrd's huge legacy is further cemented by the favor he later enjoyed with the early practitioners of rap and hip hop in the 90s. Guru made a celebrated recording featuring Donald's music, which helped ensure that the lineage of hip jazz elements became a staple of the

Many fine memories with Byrd. One that sticks out: Byrd, Fonce and I were discussing the next album and Donald said, "Let's rent a plane, fly to Vegas and brainstorm on the tennis court." So we went out to Santa Monica airport, got a twin engine and threw our rackets in the back. Off to Vegas we went with Byrd's pilot license in hand at the controls. The three of us ate, drank, gambled, hit some balls and, best of all, laughed a lot (while brainstorming of course). After a couple of days, we flew back to LA and wrote the music for *Places and Spaces*. Fun times. Rest in Peace Dr. Byrd.—LARRY MIZELL

early legacy of rap.

Byrd was an avid collector of great paintings by the elite Black painters of the 20th century, artists such as Romare Bearden and Jacob Lawrence. His private collection was worth millions, and reflected a sophisticated awareness of the fine points of great art. This was often reflected in his highly aesthetic artful album covers over the years.

Dr. Donald Byrd was a brilliant and acerbic raconteur, and a rascal to boot. Although his musical accomplishments over several decades were often

overshadowed by the brilliant, blinding aura of Miles Davis, Byrd still left a deep and indelible mark, one which surely measures up to anyone of his peers in his time in terms of superior musicianship, innovations, impact and evolutionary stylistic diversity. His contribution to the education and career launching of a whole generation of young Black jazz talent giants is exceeded only by the great Art Blakey. His commercial success is still practically unmatched in modern jazz annals.

Byrd was a lion of an artist, educator, and a fully-grown man. A Black giant.



THE

MICHAEL JACKSON

ENTERTAINER

OF THE

DECADE

ALICIA
KEYS

SETTING THE WORLD ON FIRE

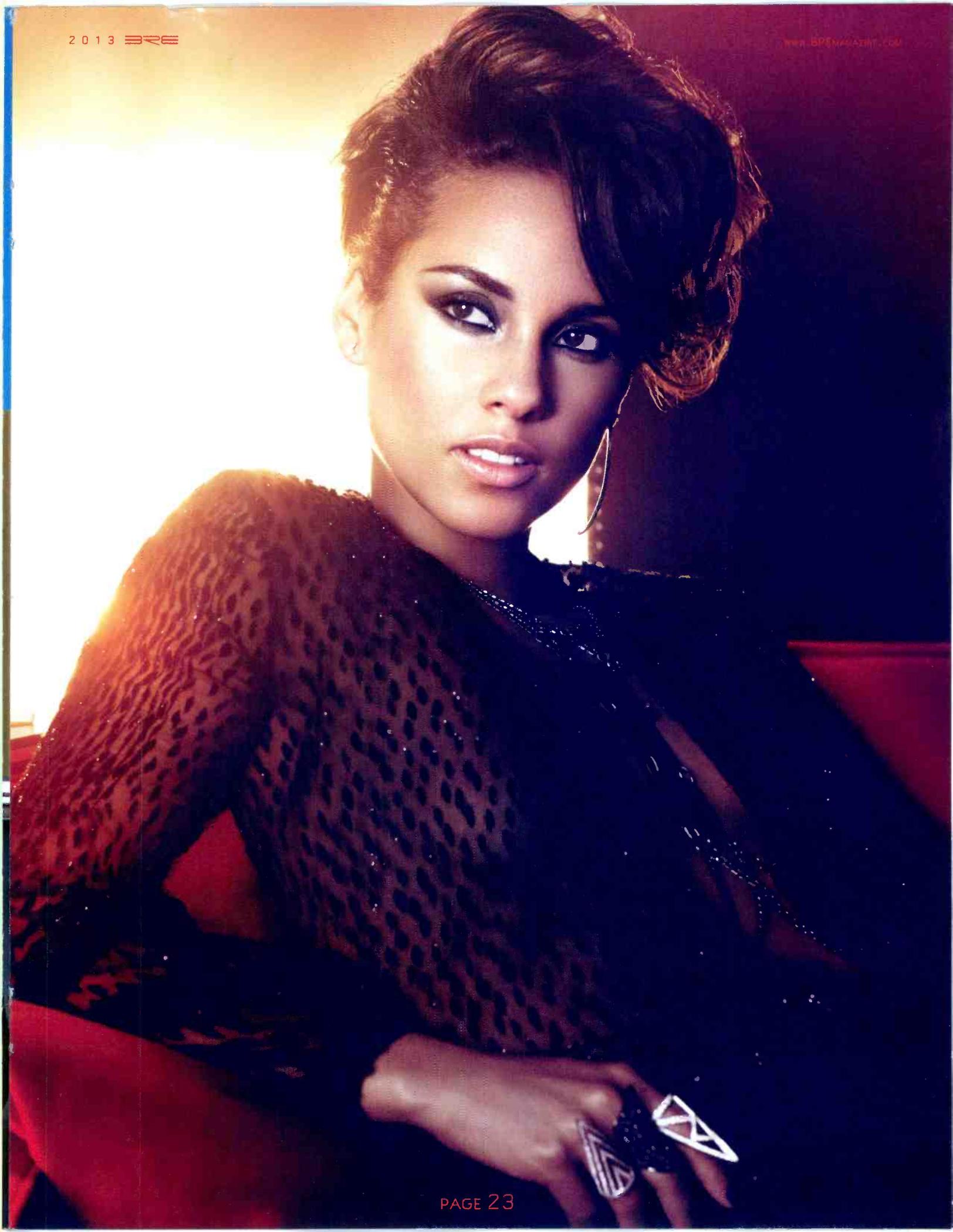
BY CAROL OZEMHOYA

It was hot in Atlanta, and I'm not talking about the weather. The scene was hot! LaFace Records was on fire. SoSo Def was smokin'. Noontime was alive and blazing.

This particular Indian summer night, SoSo Def's big cheese – J.D. (Jermaine Dupri) – was having a birthday bash at the elegant Woodruff Arts Center. His birthday blasts were already legendary. This one was the best yet. Everyone who was anyone was there. From Elton John to TLC, the crowd in VIP was having a blast. Flash bulbs flashing, rings dazzling, music bumping, liquor flowing, ladies laughing and the guys...well...smiling!

A new generation of stars was also amid the fervor: Lil Bow Wow (just nine or ten at the time), the new Bell Biv Devoe and this bright-eyed, young lady calling herself Alicia Keys with braided hair laid back against her head. Little did anyone know at this time that this young rookie would blossom into a multi-platinum star of stage, screen and the Super Bowl!

Actually, at the time of JD's birthday bash, Alicia Keys was signed to Columbia





Radio Responds...

"Alicia is the epitome of an artist," mandates renowned programmer, **Elroy "R.C." Smith**, currently inspiration format director for **Radio One, Inc.** and OM for **WRNB-FM (100.3)** and **WPPZ-FM (Praise 103.9)** in Philadelphia. "She is well versed and well trained musically. She isn't one-dimensional. That has contributed smartly to her success. She brought back to the forefront purity in vocals, something that is missing in our music of today. She has always spoken to the disenfranchised of our society, the outcasts, the misfits and those who have felt like they have never quite fit in and given them a voice. Staying connected to her audience and allowing them to feel a huge part of the journey has

been and will always be the secret of her longevity."

"Alicia is a rare find," according to **Skip Dilliard**, OM of heritage **WBLS-FM (107.5)** in New York. "She's the kind of artist that crosses formats, age demographics and creates music that enters the 'catalog' to be played and appreciated years later. Alicia's music inspires, drives passion and creativity of both her peers and aspiring artists. She makes music that touches us and that's what great songs and great singing do. I am so happy for her success."

"She's so talented. She gives back. Yet she remains humble and down to earth," says **DeDe McGuire** of the nationally syndicated "**Doug Banks Show**" and morning personality on Dallas' **KKDA-FM**

(K104). "She deserves this recognition. She's definitely an artist that people can look up to."

"Alicia Keys has been going strong for more than 10 years. Not only that, she is a crossover artist who has enjoyed radio airplay and sales in at least five formats. She is and has been, an artist who gets played on urban, urban adult, rhythmic Top 40, Hot AC and AC formats, and for those few stations that are still classified as smooth jazz. There are very few artists who fall into this kind of crossover category," says **Jerry "the Doctor" Boulding**, radio consultant and staffer at AllAccess.com. "Her concerts sell out and she is now the spokeswoman for Blackberry. The key to her success,

You can never lose when you're passionate about your place in the world and believe in the choices you've made along the way.—Alicia Keys

Records. Her next stop was Arista, but the magic took over when the man with the plan for delivering major stars and the sales to prove it, the iconic Clive Davis, signed the young singer/songwriter to his fledgling J Records.

Fast forward to early summer 2001. Another hot Atlanta night. This time the setting is the classy W Hotel on the north side of the capital of the New South. No blasting music. No glasses clinking. Just a quiet room with tables and chairs and a single piano in a corner. Programmers, personalities and people from the industry lined the walls, filled the chairs and chatted among themselves, while waiting to hear what the buzz was about.

Then J Records rep Nicole Sellers stepped to the front and stood near the piano where a lovely lady was sitting. "Ladies and gentlemen, you are in for a treat," Sellers glowed. "This is Alicia Keys."

Easily, smooth as a baby's behind, she begins to caress the black and whites...the melody is strong, her concentration is fierce, her piano skills mad and her voice crystal-clear. She looks up, she smiles, she plays, she sings, she captivates everyone in the room. By the time she finishes and unleashes "Fallin'," the room full of industry stalwarts is mesmerized. A star is born!

More than a decade later she would be singing the national anthem at arguably the biggest event of the year: the Super Bowl. Between that sumptuous summer night in 2001 and this day in 2013, Keys would sell millions and millions of records, bring in big bucks on concert tours, receive dozens of Grammy, American Music and other awards, star in major motion pictures and launch philanthropic efforts that would inspire and elevate millions of lives. And somewhere in that decade as J Records segued into the RCA Records Group as her professional home, she would marry another industry stalwart named Swizz Beats and also become a mother.

continued on next page

in addition to incredible looks, is the mass appeal of her as an artist and songwriter. Her music is transparent, universal in appeal and has allowed her to reach superstar status in this country and around the world. Her newest single, which is a duet with Maxwell, "Fire We Make" shows she is not slowing down."

"I think Alicia is still in the game because she has stayed to true to her style of music and artistry...positive, uplifting lyrics that everyday people can relate to, especially the ladies," says **Shelby Rushin-Oden**, MD/on-air personality at **WEDR-FM (99 Jamz)** in Miami.

"I think her music kind of reminds us that we truly are worth so much more than what's seen on the outside. As she says in

'Girl On Fire,' 'Looks like a girl but she's a flame!' Hotness!"

"The keys to Alicia's success have not only been the great stories she has been able to interpret through song, but also her humble spirit. She has always been someone who really acted like she cared. Her music has been innovative and soulful, and her vibe just captivates an audience to want more," comments **Jeff "Uzi-D" Anderson**, OM of Richmond, VA, Radio One cluster **WCDX-FM (iPower 92.1)**, **WKJS/W'KJM-FM (99.3/105.7 Kiss FM)**, **WPZZ-FM (Praise 104.7)** and **WTPS-AM (1240)**.

"When Alicia Keys stepped on the scene, she raised the bar for all recording artists. Not only is she attractive and can

sing, but she is a phenomenal pianist and songwriter as well. As an all-around entertainer with huge global appeal, Alicia Keys will go down in history as one of the legends of this current generation's lifetime," declares radio personality **Egypt Sherrod** of **WVEE-FM (V103)** in Atlanta, who also hosts HGTV's "Property Virgins."

"Alicia Keys has had a long prosperous career because she has been able to make music that transcends all ages, races and cultures," according to **Kelvin Quarles**, GM at **KMOJ-FM (89.9)** in Minneapolis. "Her singing talent, music writing capabilities and versatility have allowed her the luxury of maintaining her current fan base and increasing it with each new record release. She will be a superstar in music for

Meet Alicia Keys. BRE Magazine's second Michael Jackson Entertainer of the Decade honoree.

Keys shares several similarities with the King of Pop for whom this honor is dedicated and in whose footsteps Keys has added her own imprint.

She is dedicated to her craft, consistently delivering high quality music. She is innovative and able to constantly reinvent herself while staying true to her game plan and she is generous with her heart and pocket book with charitable causes.

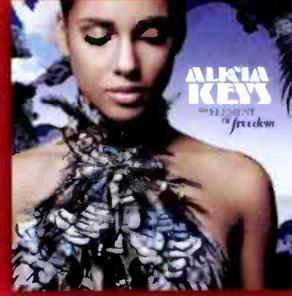
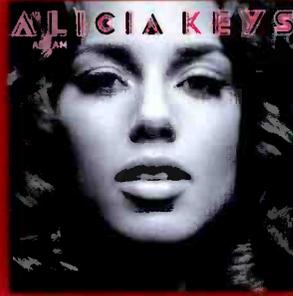
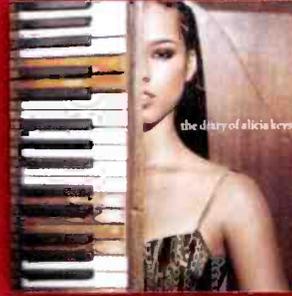
Michael Jackson's music was pure. He never cursed. He never sang anything that demoralized another human being...such also is Alicia Keys.

And refusing to be overtaken by spectacle, Keys at the piano is still as compelling as she was that night at the W Hotel in Atlanta. She remains relevant and popular by remaining true to her artistry. Authentic is a word that resonates loudly for Keys. One of the cover artists featured in Elle Magazine's Women in Music special May issue, Keys showed up with her two-year old song Egypt for her shoot atop Siren Studios in NYC where she sang along to a Grace Jones album—the epitome of cool.

Currently headlining her Set the World on Fire Tour with opener Miguel, Keys has been described as “a voice that burns with a controlled flame.” And even though she features special guests like Maxwell on her duet “Fire We Make” or Method Man rapping with her on “You’re All I Need,” or the award-winning “Empire State of Mind” featuring Jay-Z, when Keys sits down behind her piano and opens up, it’s her raw emotional talent and artistry that continues to amaze us.

It all began...

Alicia Augello Cook was born January 25, 1981. Her mother is of Italian/Scotch/Irish heritage; her father is an African-American. The couple divorced when Alicia was just two. You have to wonder if her mother knew somehow way back then, that her daughter was going to be a music icon. She made sure Alicia took dance and music classes beginning her on the piano at age seven. And the way she handles a piano today is reflective of her early dedication to music as a classically trained pianist



who can whip out Mozart and Beethoven with the same ease as she plays her own heartfelt tunes. By the time she was 12 she was a student at a performing arts school from which she graduated at 16 at the head of her class academically. This was no ordinary girl.

The numbers...

In today's music world, it's a huge score to go platinum. Decades ago in the '80s, Michael Jackson would ship platinum. MJ owned the charts and the awards shows.

In 2001 with her debut, *Songs In A Minor*, Alicia Keys, just 20 at the time, sold 6.2 million records in the U.S. and more than 12 million worldwide. Her debut single, “Fallin’,” sat on top of the Billboard Hot 100 for six weeks. She became the best-selling new artist of the year.

With *Songs in A Minor*, Keys also earned five Grammy Awards: Song of the Year, Best Female R&B Vocal Performance and Best R&B Song for “Fallin’,” Best New Artist and Best R&B Album; “Fallin’” was also nominated for Record of the Year. Keys became only the second female solo artist to win five Grammy Awards.

Count the Grammys, American Music Awards, BET Awards, Soul Train Awards, Billboard, Image Awards...the numbers stack up like bets in Las Vegas on Super Bowl day. As of the end of 2012, the number was 48 major music awards and still counting:

- 14 Billboard Awards
- 11 Grammys
- 8 Soul Train Awards
- 5 American Music Awards
- 3 each of BET, MTV and MTV Europe
- 1 World Music Award
- 16 Image Awards
- 9 ASCAP Awards
- 2 People's Choice

Then there are the numbers of her record sales:

- Songs In A Minor - 12 million worldwide
- Diary of Alicia Keys - 9 million worldwide
- As I Am - 6 million worldwide
- The Elements of Freedom - 4 million worldwide

years to come.”

“Alicia Keys’ music resonates with the human experience. It is free of all the ‘whiz bang/smoke and mirrors’ that come with modern music,” says PD **Kenny Smoov** of **WQQK-FM (92Q)** in Nashville. “It’s just a woman, her voice and a piano. She is our modern day Roberta Flack.”

“Alicia Keys is one of those artists that still ours (Urban Radio). Women like her because she is relatable and doesn’t come off untouchable. Men like her because she is real. There is a down-to-earth feel about her. I think she has grown with her fans as a woman and a Black woman,” notes **Ken Johnson**, OM of **WZRR-FM (99.5 The Vibe)** and **WUHT-FM (Hot 107.7)** in Birmingham.

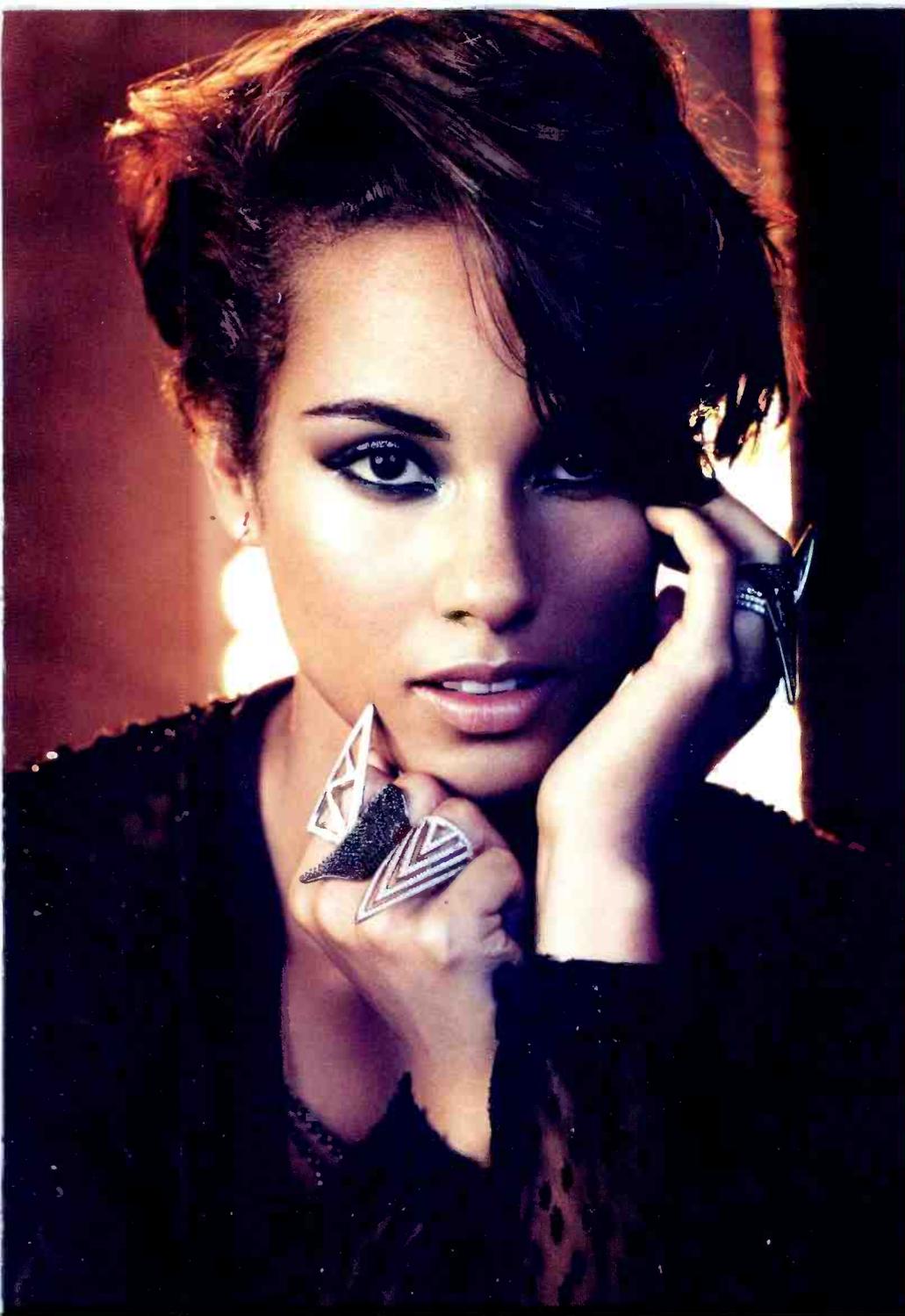
“Alicia Keys is the epitome of a total package. The fact that she can write and sing and make it fit is the perfect blend,” adds **Erik Tee**, PD/Brand Manager at **KJMH-FM (107.5 Jamz)** in Lake Charles, LA. “A lot of artists are great writers and some are great singers, but not a lot can do both and do it effectively. I do feel this is the reason why she has had such a long and prosperous career. Her music really resonates with the listeners and whether you are a female or male, there is an Alicia Keys song that stands out to you over others. Congratulations to you Alicia Keys and continued success.”

“My listeners love Alicia” declares **Jay Alexander**, PD of Lexington, KY’s **WBTF-FM (107.9)**. “You can hear the maturity in her

music from “Fallin’” until now. Her rendition of the “Star Spangled Banner” at the Super Bowl was better than Whitney’s! As we all know, artists who are born to do this, as she is, always reach for that next rung to grab onto and pull up. This latest project is the one that establishes her as the artist. Her creativity, her passion – you can hear and feel the love of what she does.”

“Alicia Keys’ longevity centers around her ability to connect with her audience, from ‘Girl Is On Fire’ all the way back to ‘If I Ain’t Got You.’ She knows how to relate, plus being beautiful and talented helps a lot!” says **Larry Steele**, station manager at **WPUL-AM (1590)** in Daytona Beach, FL.

“When we first got an ear on young Alicia Keys’ debut, “Songs In A Minor,” the initial



And with the RCA Music Group's release of *Girl On Fire*, she once again topped the Billboard charts and iTunes. Her fifth studio album debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart, No. 1 on Billboard's R&B/Hip-Hop Albums chart and No. 1 on the Top Digital Albums chart. In addition to being the best-selling R&B album in the U.S. at its debut, *Girl On Fire* reached No. 1 on the iTunes album chart in 19 countries. At its debut, the title track hit one million single sales and was No. 3 on the digital single sales chart, while rapidly climbing the top 40 radio charts.

The second single, "Brand New Me" was the most added at urban radio formats.

Girl On Fire marks Keys' fourth album to debut at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart.

Keys also holds the distinction as the first female R&B artist to have three consecutive No. 1 album debuts on the Billboard 200 album chart.

Billboard Magazine named her the top R&B songs artist of the 2000s decade. In 2010, VH1 included Keys on its list of the 100 Greatest Artists of All Time. Billboard Magazine placed her No. 10 on its list of Top 50 R&B/Hip-Hop Artists of the Past 25 Years.

reaction was WOW! This young lady has a strong chance to re-connect real Soul music to all of this overproduced 'flavor of the week' hype we're getting from much of the record side," says **Mark Dylan**, OM of **KOKY-FM (102.1)** in Little Rock, AR. "More than a decade later, Alicia has become a TRUE reason we've seen so-o-o-o many new artists come from a VERY REAL place as they move into the music industry. Alicia has become very respected and acclaimed for DARING to re-invent her rhythm and vibe virtually every time she records a new GIFT for music lovers. Alicia Keys is the TRUTH."

"I remember getting a call from Nicole Sellers saying I have to listen to this song and once I heard 'Fallin,' I knew a mega

star was born," declares **Don Cody**, former PD and now CEO of **Moses Media Inc.**

"For more than 10 years, Alicia has graced the stage with style, class and elegance. She has a tremendously down to earth personality. Everybody loves Alicia Keys - she is here to stay!"

Industry Insights...

"For me, Alicia was a star from day one. I met her when she was 15 and I felt she had a quality that only a few had to be so young and gifted. She had the 'Eye of the Tiger,' wherein it didn't matter much what everyone else was doing because she never wanted to pattern herself after anyone, had no intention of doing so and always felt that it would happen for her

whether as a teenager or later in life. She seemed to have the patience, moreso than me. Having signed her to Columbia Records at the age of 16, I, along with her then manager, Jeff Robinson, knew how important it would be for the urban and pop music cultures to hear her right away.

I recall taking Alicia to Spain back in 1998 for our worldwide Sony meetings and showcases and introducing her to a room of 250 executives, and, although she was amazing, sitting at the piano and singing Brian McKnight and Stevie Wonder songs, one executive from London asked, "I really like her talent, but what is her own music going to sound like?" I had not allowed her to perform any of her original songs and with statements like that, I knew I had

And in 2009, Keys collaborated with Spanish recording artist Alejandro Sanz for "Looking for Paradise," which topped the Billboard Hot Latin Songs chart. It was Keys' first No. 1 on all three charts, which also made her the first African-American of non-Hispanic origin to reach No. 1 on the Hot Latin Tracks



More Than A Music Artist...

Since her debut, Keys has built an unparalleled repertoire of hits with more than 35 million albums and 25 million singles sold worldwide.

As an actress, she's starred in "Smokin' Aces," "The Nanny Diaries" and "The Secret Life of Bees."

In 2011, Keys made her directorial debut with "Lili" for the Lifetime network's "Five," an anthology of five short films on the topic of breast cancer.

She made her producing debut with Lydia R. Diamond's play, "Stick Fly" for the Cort Theater, for which she also composed the original music.

Her first published work, "Tears for Water: Songbook of Poems & Lyrics by Alicia Keys," made her a *New York Times* bestselling author.

Keys has also had high profile gigs with corporate ad campaigns, including Dove, American Express, Reebok (with her own shoe design) and most recently Blackberry, who also named her its Global Creative Director.

As a philanthropist, Keys co-founded Keep a Child Alive (KCA) where she serves as Global Ambassador of the non-profit organization that provides medicine to families with HIV and AIDS in Africa. She has visited African countries such as Uganda, Kenya and South Africa to promote care for children affected by AIDS. She performed in Philadelphia as part of the worldwide Live 8 concerts to raise

awareness of the poverty in Africa and to pressure the G8 leaders to take action. Whether it's a concert for hurricane or earthquake relief or to support victims of the 9-11 attacks, or provide support for scholarship programs, she willingly gives of her talent, time and funds.

This March Keys teamed with Greater Than AIDS to launch EMPOWERED, a new public information campaign to reach women in the U.S. about HIV/AIDS.

As she so eloquently and simply states on her twitter account, she is "Passionate about my work, in love with my family and dedicated to spreading light. It's contagious!"

Keys recently defined her current self and creed on April 3 on *Leanin.org*, sharing her views on "Becoming Limitless."

A few years ago, I found myself at a crossroads. I had passed that period of being naïve, figuring out how everything worked, and learning how to put it all together. I realized it was time for me to reach out in new directions. I had new ideas and dreams. I didn't want life to just happen to me—I wanted to be an active participant.

Though people knew me primarily for my music, there were other avenues I wanted to explore. I dreamed of creating an environment – a home, so to speak – for all of my endeavors. My various interests were growing, and I was beginning to discover more opportunities in film, music, television, theatre, the tech world and beyond. I didn't want to look at all of those possibilities as separate endeavors, but rather as a cohesive package. Additionally, I was heavily involved in philanthropic efforts and wanted that passion to complement all of my creative projects as well. I realized I had a huge palette to draw from and it was important that my projects reflected my hard work.

I knew I needed this "home" to have a purpose. When I was younger, people would approach me to do endorsements and promotions for jeans, perfumes, beauty products... everything you can imagine. But I was hesitant because I knew I didn't want to just do "things"—I wanted these things to have meaning. As I thought about what I wanted

their attention and it was just a matter of keeping them remembering her as we would start releasing her own songs. I felt it was so important to sell her as an artist first to help secure that longevity and I knew if I could do that by her making the cover songs that she was performing sound like her own, that, when we did drop her original music, she was here to stay.

Alicia Keys was a star from day one!"

-Michael Mauldin, CEO, Mauldin Brand Agency

"Alicia Keys became a musical icon almost immediately when she came on the scene. Her ability to continually captivate her audiences and re-invent herself is phenomenal. This girl is on fire!"

--Trina Braxton

"She's an undeniable superstar who has stayed true to who she is, even with the change in the music scene," says R&B singer/songwriter **Sam Salter**. "She's made people love her, not just her music."

"The key to Alicia's longevity is that she is a positive role model for women of all ages, 18-24, 25-44," says **DJ Mecca**, urban programming at **Music Choice**. "She resonates with anthemic hits like "No One," "You'll Never See Me Again" and "Brand New Me." Whether it's a wedding or family reunion, you'll hear Alicia's hits anywhere, USA."

"Alicia Keys is like the female Prince to me... an incredible songwriter and dynamic performer who brings class and elegance to everything that she does." **-Ian Burke**,

Entertainment Consultant, Artist Manager
 "I remember watching Alicia Keys perform as a teenager at an industry showcase in the late '90s and thinking, this little girl is truly special! A decade later, she has proven to be more than just an amazing songwriter and performer; she has successfully used the arts as a platform to inspire a generation and transpire to greater heights as a philanthropist and griot. I commend Alicia Keys for revolutionizing her platform for the betterment of global communities in such a cool manner, and I look forward to her continued evolution as a creative arts leader." **-Jen Farris**, Publicist and Content Creator ZDnnis Media Group, Atlanta
 "In 2001, Alicia Keys was welcomed into

to make of my new "home," I began to focus on the idea of inspiration and how it could be my guiding force in the world—working solely on things that have the potential to bring light to people and make a real difference.

I saw this most clearly when I was backstage before one of my shows. A woman came up to me during a meet and greet and asked me if I was going to sing "Unbreakable." I teased her for a moment, saying, "I don't know, maybe... we'll have to see." She responded very seriously. "I hope so. I am five years in remission. I played that song every day during chemo." Her words left me speechless. In fact, even today when I talk about that exchange, I still get the chills as I reflect on her response. That moment alone embodies how I feel about music and all creative endeavors—there's an incredibly beautiful power that when used appropriately, has the ability to inspire people.

Throughout my life and the course of my career, I've had the opportunity to see what's possible when women come together to inspire, empower and encourage each other. A large part of my journey as an artist has been influenced and supported by the great women I've been surrounded by: my grandmother and mother among them. As I opened a new door in my career, I was driven to honor the power and brilliance of women as leaders and positive forces in making a difference. And so I started AK Worldwide, the company that oversees and manages all of my projects.

It wasn't easy. People disagreed with me and thought it was a silly idea. Some said it wouldn't work and that I didn't know what I was doing. But I soon recognized that many people don't encourage you to step into your power and reach your true potential. In fact, they may even like it when you have less power or control in life. And so, I decided to keep moving forward—to keep creating a world filled with the opportunities I wanted and believed in so strongly and with women's empowerment at the forefront.

At times it was definitely a struggle. To restructure a business and bring change to the things that are already known can be daunting and overwhelming. I was determined to rethink the way things should be done and then created a whole new team around my vision.

In spite of my conviction, others continued to feed me with doubt rather than offer support. It was disappointing and scary. I kept thinking, "Maybe I should do this in my personal time. When I have downtime, I can do this." But as I worked through the process and followed my intuition, I found that my life became fuller—my goals and purpose were greater than any of the negativity I faced. I was becoming more complete.

Slowly, AK Worldwide began to grow. Opportunities I had only dreamed of before began to come to life. What once seemed unreachable became possible to grasp. And one day, I just knew—I knew my business would succeed because I wanted it to succeed. Because I believed it would succeed. Because I worked hard for it and because I listened to myself and knew what I was capable of achieving.

I find great trust in the women I've hired and whom I collaborate with every day. We have worked hard to invest in and partner with women-owned businesses to produce projects that highlight the beauty and strength and diversity of women, and to collaborate on initiatives that place an emphasis on women (often through humanitarian efforts). With inspiration at AK Worldwide's core, I've created a place or "home" that pushes me to do the things I had always imagined and reminds women, my greatest supporters, that we are unstoppable and can all continuously reach for everything we can dream. The results have been mind-blowing. But I know that none of this would have happened had I not found myself at a fork in the road.

As I look to the future, a goal of mine is to change perceptions. I've learned that as a culture, we like to box everyone in with short, concise descriptions. We love stereotypes and we love genres—we love feeling like there's a compartment or space to put things in order. I'd like to break down those preconceptions and allow people to shine as they are and not how we want them to be.

Through my experience, I've learned that you can create the world you want, and fill it with the opportunities that are right for you. Do not let others limit your power or step on your integrity. Instead, focus on what matters to you. You can never lose when you're passionate about your place in the world and believe in the choices you've made along the way.



our musical consciousness. With every note, we've all been witness to her artistry, radiating like a bright sun in a galaxy of dim stars. In 2013, her soulful grooves reverberate across the globe. Alicia Keys has changed the landscape of music with refined musicianship, personal clarity and a profound global perspective."--**Angela Thomas**, Needle on the Record.net

"Alicia Keys' music is liked by women and men alike because her music speaks to each of us without offending or exploiting anyone. Much of her music regards relationships in which we all can relate to. Plus, it's done in such a tasteful manner that you can listen to it and not feel like you have to switch the dial whether your child or your mother just walked into the room. In fact, you can literally

have all generations in the house singing the same song at the same time. Alicia Keys is relatable to all... and still hip at the same time. Good solid music that's universal and ageless."--**Val Jones**, former programmer/personality, current promoter IAMVALJONES.COM

Fan Favorite...

"Alicia Keys is a rock star because she sings with true soul and uses the piano to emote even more. The combined duo of her voice and the piano pull the audience in. And her songs are so relatable, too. Boom. Package deal!"--**Mathia**, 20-year-old aspiring artist who was in the Top Ten on Season 2 of "The Voice." Atlanta, GA
"She is an inspiration to me. I want to be as

successful as she is. I'm learning the piano and writing my own songs. I like the way she tells a story and my mom likes her too because her songs are clean and positive and we can listen to them together."--

Raven Chanel, 11, co-wrote and sang "Bring It Back," which was a Top 10 song on Reverbnation in January 2013.

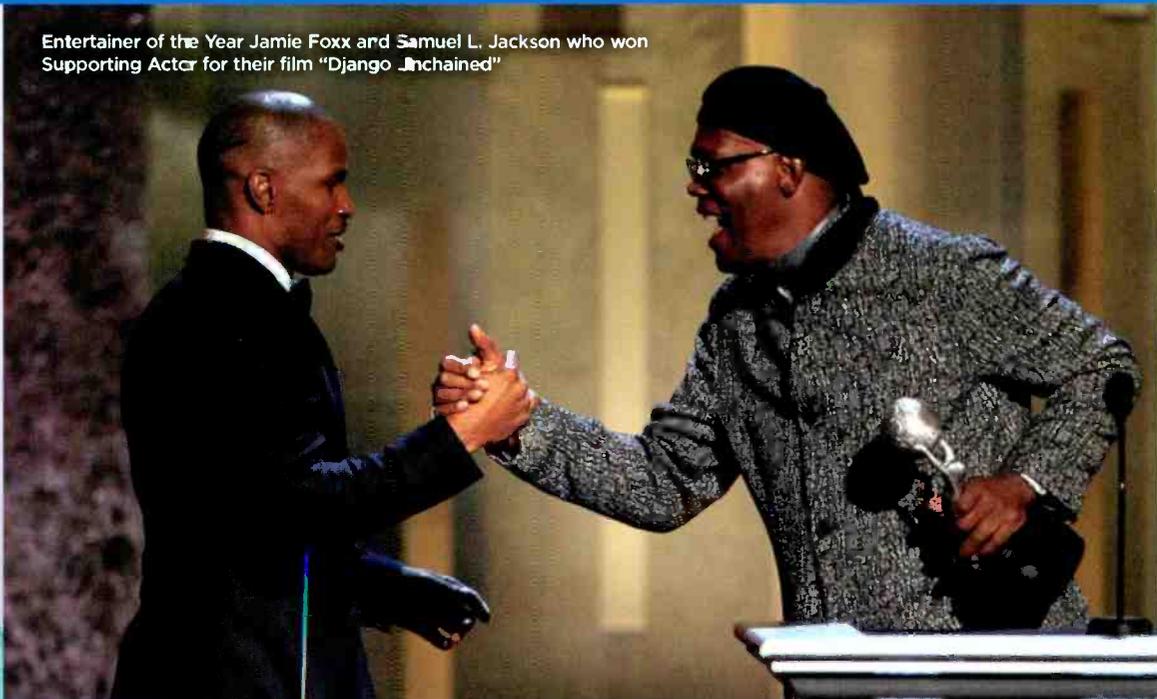
"Alicia Keys has an incredible sound and wide octave range which really lures the listener into her world, her music. The songs she sings are very relatable to the everyday woman and the experiences she sings about are close and personal. I very much relate to her stories and start believing that I can sing as well as Alicia! And driving along in my car you can't tell me I'm not!"--**Michelle Anderson**, 39, fan, Conyers, GA

SPECIAL AWARDS TO **KERRY WASHINGTON** AND **JAMIE FOXX** AT THE **44TH ANNUAL NAACP IMAGE AWARDS**



Multiple winner Kerry Washington

Entertainer of the Year Jamie Foxx and Samuel L. Jackson who won Supporting Actor for their film "Django Unchained"



He may not have received the Best Actor Award nor was the film "Django Unchained" named Best Film, but Jamie Foxx still managed to take top honors as Entertainer of the Year at the 44th Annual NAACP Image Awards taped at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles. His Django co-stars Kerry Washington and Samuel L. Jackson both received the NAACP's Image Awards. The George Lucas-produced Tuskegee drama "Red Tails" claimed best motion picture over the Quentin Tarantino produced slave-era drama "Django." Denzel Washington was named Best Actor for "Flight" and Viola Davis for "Won't Back Down," while "Beasts of the Southern Wild" was named Best Indie Movie.

On the television front, Washington won again for her lead in the ABC series "Scandal," which also won Best Drama, and was additionally presented the President's Award in recognition of exceptional public service. Don Cheadle won the comedy counterpart for the Showtime original

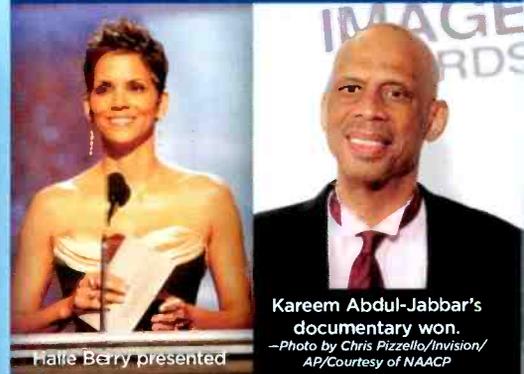
George Lucas accepts the award for Best Picture for "Tuskegee Airmen"



A LOOK BEHIND THE CURTAIN



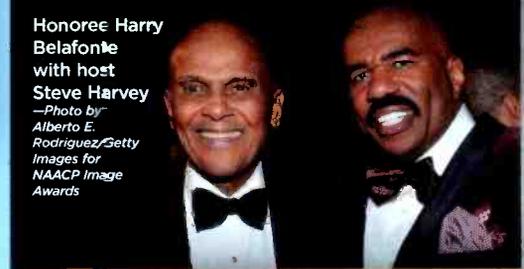
Hollywood's most influential executives and actresses discuss the representation and impact of women in the media and entertainment at the FORD sponsored 9th Annual Hollywood Bureau Symposium as part of the 44th Annual NAACP Image Awards. A portion of Ford's sponsorship goes to support programs within the community. (l-r) Vic Bulluck, executive director NAACP Hollywood Bureau; Debra Martin Chase, producer; Neema Barnett, filmmaker/director; Madeline Di Nonno, executive director, Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media; Tawanda Braxton, Braxton Family Values; Sil Lai Abrams, founder, Truth In Reality, and Pamela Alexander, director, Ford Motor Company Fund & Community Development. --Photo by Arnold Turner/AT Archives



Halle Berry presented

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's documentary won.
--Photo by Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP/Courtesy of NAACP

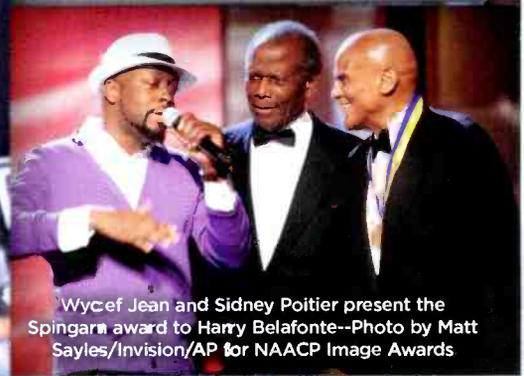
Honoree Harry Belafonte with host Steve Harvey
--Photo by Alberto E. Rodriguez/Getty Images for NAACP Image Awards



Loretta Devine wins two Image Awards



ABC TV series "Scandal" wins Best Drama Series

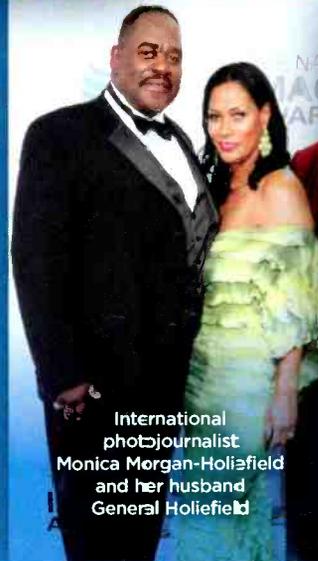


Wyclef Jean and Sidney Poitier present the Spingarn award to Harry Belafonte--Photo by Matt Sayles/Invision/AP for NAACP Image Awards

series "House of Lies." Tyler Perry's "House of Payne" grabbed two wins for Cassi Davis and Lance Gross while L.L. Cool J won for "NCIS: Los Angeles," Omar Epps for "House M.D." and Loretta Devine for "Grey's Anatomy" as well as the children's program "Doc McStuffins." The made for Television Movie "Steel Magnolias" won best in that category as well as claimed honors for Alfre Woodard. TV One's "Unsung" won in the News category; "the View" in Talk; OWN's "Welcome To Sweetie Pie's" won best Reality Series and "Black Girls Rock" for Best Variety Series or Special.

NBA legend Kareem Abdul Jabbar won for his documentary "On the Shoulders of Giants -- The Story of the Greatest Team You've Never Heard Of."

In music, Usher and Alicia Keys won as Best Artists, while Elle Varner was named Best New Artist. Mary Mary took top honors in both the Gospel Album and Duo or Group category. New Orleans jazz took front and center as The Preservation Hall Jazz Band won Best Jazz album for its 50th anniversary collection. Whitney Houston was remembered fondly with a win for Best Song for the Houston/R. Kelly "I Look To You" and for Best Album for "I Will Always Love You: The Best of Whitney Houston."



International photojournalist Monica Morgan-Holief and her husband General Holief



Roslyn M Brock, NAACP Chairman, National Board of Directors with honoree US Navy Vice Admiral Michelle Howard



O'Jays' ERIC NOLAN GRANT'S

To Improve Quality of R&B Realized in Boy Wonder Launch

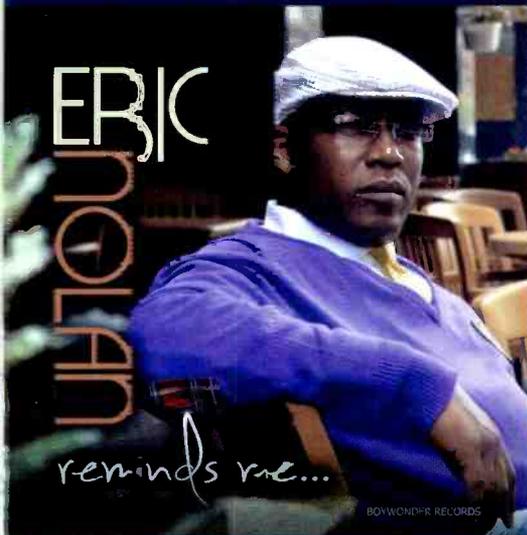
by ROSALIND R. RAY, ESQ.

Times may have changed, but Eric Nolan Grant, a longtime member of the legendary group The O'Jays has not when it comes to wanting to hear and produce good music. With the launch in 2011 of Boy Wonder Records, he looks to provide opportunities to gifted artists who "appreciate and are committed to improving the quality of today's R&B through their music."

The youngest member of the legendary O'Jays, Eric Nolan

Debuted on the O'Jays' album *Love You To Tears* in 1997 after auditioning and winning the coveted third spot. As an integral part of the group that in 2001 released the Grammy nominated *For The Love* album, followed in 2003 by a Gold Record for the soundtrack to the film "The Fighting Temptations" that also marked his acting debut, and in 2004 by the Music World Music release of *Imagination*, Eric Nolan is no stranger to the R&B landscape.

On the contrary, a "boy wonder" himself, Eric Nolan Grant began singing at the age of four, joining the Cleveland singing group The Deltones as a teenager. Experience singing background vocals for Dennis Edwards of The Temptations led the Cleveland native to



Detroit, where he formed a duet called E&J with songstress Jeanie Lyles. Returning to Cleveland in 1995, he joined the father and son tour of Eddie Levert and the late Gerald Levert, performing back-to-back again, before nailing his audition to join the O'Jays stepping out front as the third member of the famous trio.

Inducted into Cleveland's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame as a member of the O'Jays, Eric has many laurels both as a member of the group and individually. From an Honorary Doctorate of Arts from Shaw University in Raleigh, NC to induction into the Vocal Group Hall of Fame in Sharon, Pa., to being awarded BET's Lifetime Achievement Award and the Trumpet Lifetime Achievement Award, Eric has the credentials for knowing about quality R&B. Currently an active, always touring member of The O'Jays, he's either on the road whether booked on stages in South Africa or Daytona Beach, the Tom Joyner Fantastic Voyage Cruise or the Soul Train Cruise, or performing on special concerts or television specials like the treasured PBS "Love Train: The Sound of Philadelphia," which is also available as a DVD.

Partnering with Jayshawn Champion to launch Boy Wonder Records, Eric has already released his own solo single, "Reminds Me," which Sirius Satellite's Heart and Soul channel added to immediate rotation.

Describing the members—Jonny (24), Andy (27), and Levert (28)—of the label's first trio G-Men, as "charismatic,



smooth and perfect gentlemen," the Boy Wonder CEO says "they will fill the void that has existed in R&B music for the past few years. With the vocal ability of Boys II Men, the smoothness of After 7 and a hint of 112," G-Men bring a certain class to the industry, and their first single, "Over and Over," proves the label's expectations.

Referring to Nehemie & Billy Rich as "today's versions of Gladys Knight and the Pips," Eric says the first single from this group, "Tissue," currently available digitally on iTunes and ReverbNation, is an empowerment song for heartbroken women.

And, he's not through yet. Other releases are in the works too, who will soon be joining the Boy Wonder Tour, and he's also developing a film based on his life story, titled "I Am My Brother's Keeper."

A fellow Cancer, I can attest to these strong qualities that Eric exudes: passion, loyalty and dedication to excellence. And having been blessed to have worked with The O'Jays for nearly 12 years myself and knowing firsthand their work ethic and their strides toward excellence, I know without a doubt that Eric Nolan Grant was provided the best guidance that anyone could ask for and will truly succeed in these new endeavors.

The continuing legacy of R&B and soul music are indeed in safe and competent hands as Boy Wonder Records unveils its quality roster of talent nurtured by the lessons learned in the trenches with an iconic group whose songs and performances have defined the last almost six decades of R&B music and continue to reverberate.

For more information go to www.boywonderrecords.net.

CHEF HUDA:

FOOD+FASHION+ENTERTAINMENT=MY REALITY

Chef Huda landed in Nigella Lawson's coveted kitchen on ABC's hit reality series "The Taste," serving her recipe "Huda's Shrimp w/Aged Cheddar Grits," that became a favorite on the show--an amazing platform to expose her talents further. Exclaims Chef Huda: "I'm truly blessed my talents and personality could get me there, and I would definitely do it again. My only advice is to be fearless and do your best. At the end of the day, at least you tried something that other people weren't able to do."

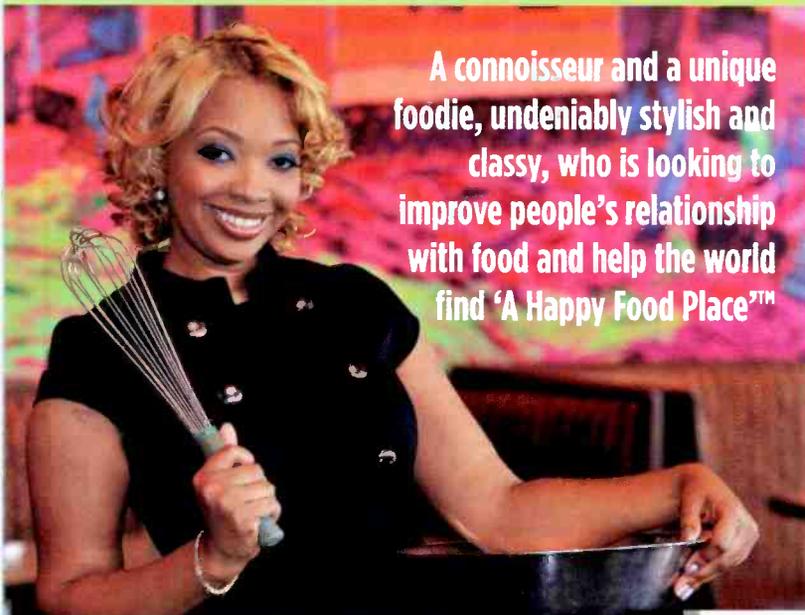
BY TANISHA L. WILLIAMS

According to Chef Huda, that love is her secret weapon and she uses it in all of her recipes. A compliment from one of her clients affirmed that strength when the client told her that her food was the best he had tasted since his mother passed. "I never met his mother, but that touched my heart," says Huda. "That reaffirmed just how connected our memories are when it comes to loved ones and food." Creating a 'Happy Food Place' became her mantra and she delivers that happy feeling of 'home' to luncheons, meetings, events and celebrations.

Admittedly, Chef Huda cringes at the sight of someone salting their food before they taste it and is completely open to sharing the full menu she has for the day she gets the call to contribute to the Obama's kitchen. "I would make roasted vegetables to please the First Lady. I would prepare macaroni and cheese for the President. Then, I would cook some type of cedar-marinated meat and grill it. Of course, the meal isn't complete without my brown sugar cornbread. We would finish the evening off with a cognac apple pear pie and a spot of fresh vanilla whip cream."

Huda is the Arabic word for guidance for the right path and it looks like her chosen path has opened up more than ever. Chef Huda, having just returned from the Grammys in Los Angeles where she helped with styling thenominees, continues to expand her brand. "I own Style by Hu, a stylist company, and a consignment shop, Closet of Hu," she shares, adding, "I would love to do a travel show. I will show you how to eat your way through a city without damaging your budget or waist line."

A connoisseur and a unique foodie, undeniably stylish and classy, who is looking to improve people's relationship with food and help the world find 'A Happy Food Place'™



That mindset is where it all began.

Although her family loved cooking, surprisingly, none of them are chefs. At six years old, Huda decided that she wanted to bake fish in the family kitchen. Her mother, entertainment industry publicist Priscilla Clarke, wasn't amused when she discovered her young daughter had turned on the oven. "She wasn't happy with me, but, it opened up a conversation and she started including me in the kitchen more," explained Huda. During high school she worked at several food related jobs and after graduating from University of Maryland, Huda Mu'Min decided she wanted to turn her culinary skills into a career and attended the cooking school Le Cordon Bleu.

Converting those new skills into reality, she introduced her personal chef service called Pretty & Delicious. "We bring the party to our clients. I named it Pretty & Delicious, because, I truly believe that all food should be pretty and delicious at all times. We have all been somewhere where the food has been pretty and not so tasty or didn't look very appetizing but still tasted delicious." Huda believes the same should be said for a person's presence in the kitchen. "It is my duty to bring style back to the kitchen. I loved the forties and fifties when everyone was dressing up and being dapper while preparing a meal that your family will love."



Chef Huda on the red carpet with the cast of "Scandal"

She's also a freelance writer and entertainment correspondent for the CW Network, WUSA Ch.9, Examiner, Washington Informer Newspaper, StyledbyHu.com and The ROOT DC featured in the Washington Post. In fact, her "Hu's Who" regularly features her interviews with celebrities and entertainers live from the red carpet.

Tune into "The Taste," to see more of Chef Huda's food and fashion flare or connect with her on her website at www.chefhuda.com.

BIGSHOTS

BMI HONORS GOSPEL TRAILBLAZERS

“I SMILE” MOST PERFORMED GOSPEL SONG OF THE YEAR

PHOTOS BY ARNOLD TURNER/AT ARCHIVES

The 14th Annual Trailblazers of Gospel Music Awards paid tribute to Edwin Hawkins, Lady Tramaine Hawkins and Kurt Carr at its annual awards luncheon in Nashville. Hosted by CeCe Winans and Donnie McClurkin, along with Del Bryant, BMI President/CEO, and Catherine Brewton, BMI Vice President, Writer/Publisher Relations, this year's event featured the Donald Lawrence & Co. Singers, Lisa Knowles, Sheri Jones-Moffett, and Amber Bullock in a musical tribute to Carr, while Pastor Shirley Caesar, Bishop Paul Morton, LaShun Pace, Kierra Sheard, Jason Nelson and Jonathan Nelson performed Edwin Hawkins songs. An all-star collection of artists, including Anaysha Figueroa, Le' Andria Johnson, VaShaun Mitchell and Yolanda Adams, closed the show celebrating Lady Tramaine Hawkins. Touting more than 500,000 performances, the Kirk Franklin co-penned song "I Smile" from his gold-certified Hello Fear album was also recognized as BMI's Most Performed Gospel Song for the Year.



BMI Vice President, Writer-Publisher Relations Catherine Brewton (far right) congratulates 2013 BMI Trailblazers honorees Edwin Hawkins, Lady Tramaine Hawkins and Kurt Carr

Shirley Caesar performed tribute to Edwin Hawkins



Singer Yolanda Adams; BMI President/CEO Del Bryant; BMI Vice President, Writer-Publisher Relations Catherine Brewton; and singers Amber Bullock and Le' Andria Johnson



Above: (l-r) Isaac Carree, Tina Campbell, Donnie McClurkin, Kirk Franklin, Erica Campbell, and Warryn Campbell



Left: Franklin's group The Walls performed Kirk Franklin's "I Smile"



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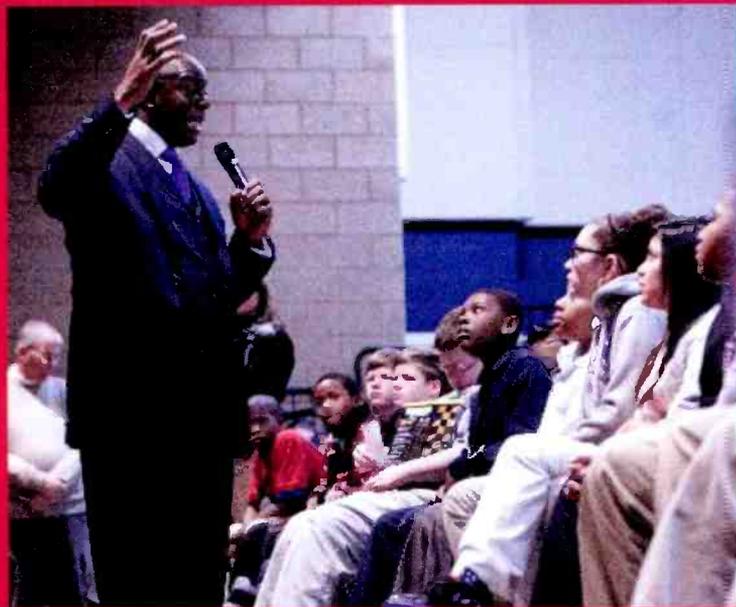
Reporter: **Jammin' Jammie**

Avant 'Facing the Music'



Cleveland native Avant, the first artist Magic Johnson signed to this MCA distributed label MJM in 1999, whose cover of Rene and Angela's "My First Love" with Keke Wyatt reached the Top Five, is back on *Face the Music* distributed through EMI where he again reunites with Keke Wyatt on "You & I." Shown in the Atlanta studios of Radio One's urban WHTA-FM (Hot 107.9) with the syndicated Rickey Smiley morning team are (l-r) R-Toc, Rickey Smiley, Gary and Ebony and Avant.

Magic Johnson Extends a Bridge



Macon, Georgia welcomed its inaugural class to the new Magic Johnson Bridgescape Center on Northside Drive with plans already underway for the opening of a second center in 2014. The Magic Johnson Bridgescape, in conjunction with Provost Academy Georgia (PAGA) is a free program designed to provide high schoolers who have either already dropped out of school or at risk with the opportunity to earn a standard high school diploma. Open to students aged 14 to 20, the Macon class followed the opening of Johnson's first center in Atlanta in September 2012.



James T

James T: New Deal, New Ideas for Hot 107

Approaching 45 years and still counting is the announcement from Miami as South Florida radio icon James T re-signs a new multi-year contract with Cox urban AC WHQT-FM (Hot 105) where he has been holding down the 10am-3pm weekday slot since rejoining the Cox team in 2007. The longtime morning personality at sister WEDR who delivered eight continuous years of top rated mornings there, James T. will continue his bigger than life presence in the area.

According to Cox OM Phil Michaels, "He's been a mentor to many of us in urban radio and he's inspired many of us to be the best in this business. Having competed against him, I know from experience what a tenacious competitor he is and the strong relationships he's built throughout the years in the industry and our community."

James reports that as part of his new deal, he will also be allowed to develop new content ideas.

Will Calder Joins WPOW

Beasley Top 40/Rhythmic WPOW-FM (Power 96) in Miami now has its own part of the Big Apple welcoming Will Calder to middays and as the new APD. Previously at CBS Radio's Top 40/Mainstream WNOW-FM (Now 92.3) in NYC where he had been Assistant MD, on-air personality and Production Director, Calder was more than happy to segue from the wintry streets of NYC to Miami's sunny shores. "I'm beyond excited to join this truly talented team at this legendary radio station. It's been amazing so far to get to know the passionate people that listen to Power 96 and to be a part of their daily routine."

PD Pio Ferro welcomed him to Power describing Calder as having "amazing programming, production and on-air skills" and adding, "He's also one of the nicest guys in the business. I'm very happy to welcome him to the Power 96 family."



Will Calder

NFL All-Pro Leonard Weaver Kicks Off Take Over Crusade



Leonard Weaver

The Florida native and former NFL All-Pro full back Leonard Weaver (Seattle Seahawks/Philadelphia Eagles) is on a new mission that kicked off on March 22 in Melbourne, Florida at the Melbourne Auditorium. Calling it the "Take Over Crusade," Weaver has launched the musical faith tour that weaves inspirational messages into its musical performances, theatrical skits, light shows and special celebrity appearances. Featured artists on this combination entertainment and inspiration tour throughout Florida include Canton Jones, hip hop/R&B artist Erica Cumbo and hip hop lyricist Mouthpi3ce.

"My vision for this movement is to empower this generation to live better and dream bigger," explains Weaver, whose career also includes broadcasting on ESPN Radio and Comcast

Sportnet. All proceeds from the tour will benefit the Leonard Weaver Family Foundation's Weaver's Workerz Mentorship Program, his philanthropic initiative aimed at positive development of families and communities.

Orlando Radio Welcomes 2 to Programming

CBS Radio Top 40/Rhythmic WJHM-FM (102 Jamz) in Orlando, added APD responsibilities to current MD Melony Torres, a native of Orlando (Go Dirty Birds!). Says Jamz PD Bobby Smith, "Melony will continue her roles as Music Director and midday personality on 102 Jamz. I'm looking forward to her expanded role in the programming department." Her e-mail is melony@102jamzorlando.com



Melony Torres



Dawn Campbell

Meanwhile at Orlando's Cox Media urban AC WCFB-FM (Star 94.5), Promotion Coordinator Dawn Campbell added Music Director duties for both WCFB and its sister station Top 40/Rhythmic WPYO-FM (Power 95.3). Formerly the Assistant Promotions Director and morning host for competitor CBS Radio's WJHM-FM (102 Jamz), Campbell will retain her promotion coordinator duties at WCFB.

Tampa Welcomes New GSM

In Time for WiLD Splash Spring Break

Clear Channel (CM+E) welcomed Fernando Bauermeister from the Orlando Clear Channel cluster to its Tampa cluster that includes urban WBTP, Top 40 WFLZ and Active Rock WXTB as its new General Sales Manager. Previously the GSM in Orlando too, Bauermeister says he's "looking forward to leveraging for our advertisers and partners" in Tampa as well.

CBS Radio Top 40/Rhythmic WLLD-FM (Wild 94.1) hosted its annual WiLD Splash Spring Break concert on March 9th at Coachman Park in Clearwater. This year's concert featured Meek Mills, Juvenile, Juicy J, John Hart, Mr. Vegas, Ravaughn and B. Smyth.

Where Hip Hop Now Lives in Jacksonville

Tune into Cox Media's new (Power 106.1) if you want to know where hip hop lives in Jacksonville now, says Cox Media Jacksonville Operations Director Todd Shannon who kicked off the new year running 10,000 hip hop songs in a row with no commercials to launch the new format on January 10. Converting from 106.1 The Dove, a teaser micro-format that had been running the same songs on a loop, Power 106.1 is the new urban competitor in Duval challenging market leader, Clear Channel WJBT-FM (93.3 the Beat). The



SOT Celebrates 1st Sisters Circle



Sisters of Today and Tomorrow (SOT) at its first Sisters Circle meeting with some 25 Atlanta women from television, radio, education and social work announced its first major program under its new SOT YOUiversity division, themed "Celebrating Women of Color...The Image of Women in Television," which will be spearheaded by Angela Jones from television management at CNN and Karen Marie Mason of WRFG-FM (89.3) radio. Shown (l-r) Candace Ledbetter, CBS Radio; Tina Douglas, CBS Radio; Karen Marie Mason, WRFG/KMM; Janet Jack, CBS Radio/KSS Solutions; Inda Barnes, Community Advocate; Katrina Hill, MSW; Terri Lewis, Educator; Carla Morrison, Founder/Executive Director Sisters of Today and Tomorrow (center); Ebony Peterson, MSW, DFCS; Shanti Das, Press Reset Entertainment; Angela Jones, CNN; Yakini Horn, Professional Actress; Anneka Jenkins, Radio One; Kendall Chambers-McEachin, Turner Broadcasting and Cynthia Young, KISS 104.1fm.—Photo by Prime Phocus

WGIV's Morning Show Welcomes Tomorrow's Historymakers



WGIV-FM (103.3), the 'Soul of Charlotte', morning host B.J. Murphy and his morning crew Silas, Beazy and Shawn, shown with filmmaker/host Tim Greene, saluted future youth radio and TV broadcasters from The North Carolina Film Factory, which, along with Carolina Kids News, trains youth who are interested in careers in radio and television. Hip Hop filmmaker/Cool Out host Tim Greene kicked off his "Black History Makers Of Tomorrow Tour" in Charlotte with WGIV.

24/7 hip hop format, airing on its 225-watt translator as well as sister station WJGL's HD2, in fact, beat out the established urban market leader becoming the first HD-2 station to grab #1 in the 18-34 demos from the longtime dominant WJBT.

Located at 8000 Belfort Parkway, Suite 100, Jacksonville, FL 32256, PD Shannon says mp3s with a maximum file size of 10mb can be sent to artists@power1061.com. The station phone is (904) 245-8500 and reach Shannon at todd.Shannon@coxinc.com.

Cox Media Group also named a University of Georgia veteran manager from its six stations in Athens, GA, Eric Lauer, as its new GSM for the new Power, WAPE and WXXJ.

Foxie's New 'Wake Up' Team

Georgia Ellyse



Baby J



Columbus, Georgia woke up to a new morning team at its 's top rated urban, David Broadcasting's WFXX-FM (Foxie 105), when Georgia Ellyse and Baby J kicked off their new "Wake Up" morning show on March 25. Baby J was previously co-host of the top rated "Da Breakfuss Club" at WJMZ-FM (107.3) in Greenville, SC, while Ellyse handled daily duties as the Midday Show host at KMOJ-FM (89.9) in Minneapolis.

Valdosta Radio Changes

BRE's Jammin' Jammie Brooks, a 20-year radio veteran, reports that he needs service at La Taurus Productions' Valdosta Urban Contemporary WHLJ-FM (Foxy 97.5), which is now streaming online at foxy97.com as well. Send product to his attention at PO Box 1305, Valdosta, GA 31603.

Egypt Hosts Boot Camp for Women

WVEE-FM (V103) midday air personality Egypt Sherrod hosted an all-female boot camp for more than 150 women ages 18 to 5 at the Women's Empowerment Conference in conjunction with Clark Atlanta University. (l-r) Domonique Scott, Mimi Faust, Lry Couch, Nicci Gilbert, Egypt, Deb Antney, Mo Ivory, Amber Noble-Garland and Towanda Braxton.

Other changes in the market include the exit of Hittman DJ Big Nick from Rivers Radio Group hip-hop WLYX-FM (96.7) to Black Crow Media's hit station WXHT-FM (Hot 102.7) for afternoons. Jay West has left WLYX's middays to do telemarketing. Rivers Radio Group's sister station, urban AC WGOV-AM (Magic 950) has switched formats to Latino with radio veteran Lamar Freeman retiring from the station after 35 years to run his real estate business.

Arbitron first added the Valdosta radio market to its ratings service in 2004.

Mami Chula's New Night Beat

Clear Channel (CCM+E)'s Atlanta hip hop WWPW-FM (104.3 The Beat) welcomed Mami Chula as host of the 10:00 am to 12:00 noon slot. Chula, who formerly did nights at WBTS-FM, is one of Atlanta top club DJs.

Georgia Radio Legends Honored

The Georgia Radio Hall of Fame 7th Annual Induction Awards, scheduled for October 19 at the Atlanta/Marietta Hilton Hotel and Conference Center include Legend inductees Palmyra Braswell, the first black female disc jockey (WBML) in Macon, Georgia and educator; Royal Marshall, WSB, Atlanta talk show host and producer; and Annie Lee Small, WYTH, Madison co-owner and Atlanta's first female announcer.

Another honoree is James "Alley Pat" Patrick, one of Atlanta's first black deejays who went by the moniker of Pat alley. Discovered while calling a bingo game by Ken Knight, PD of WERD, the first black-owned station in America, Alley Pat joined WAOK in 1954 with a white co-host DJ Zenas Sears, later handling morning drive at WXAP-AM and then afternoons at WYZE-AM before segueing to WQXI-FM in the early '90s. (See Spotlight)

Frank Ski Continues Support of His Kids Foundation

Even though Frank Ski may no longer be heard on the air



over WVEE-FM's airwaves where he and Wanda claimed Atlanta mornings for the past 14 years, Ski continues his support of his Frank Ski Kids Foundation. He has announced the hosts of his 9th Annual Celebrity Wine Tasting and Live Auction fundraiser for his Foundation that has in the past auctioned even an Arabian horse. This year's hosts are two husband/wife teams: actor Boris Kodjoe and his wife Nicole Ari Parker, and former Def Jam CEO Kevin Liles and his wife Erika.

Giving Praise!

Claiming its third Stellar Award for Major Market Gospel Station of the Year, Derek Harper, PD for the winning Radio One WPZE-FM (Praise 102.5/102.9) in Atlanta, declared the award "a testament" to his team. Added Praise VP/GM Timothy P. Davies, "To again be recognized as the best of the best in the country is truly an honor."

The station is currently touting its One Love Gospel Getaway to the Atlantis Hotel in Paradise Island in the Bahamas featuring a stellar lineup that includes Mary Mary, Shirley Caesar, Yolanda Adams and James Fortune, among many others. Scheduled for May 2 through May 5, this is not the traditional annual gospel cruise. Guests must book their own flights to the Bahamas to join in the four days of events.

CBS Continues #1 Claim in Atlanta

Touting its 14th straight #1 book in the most recent February Arbitron ratings, CBS Radio urban WVEE-FM (V103) in Atlanta entered the new year with a new lineup that PD Reggie Rouse expects to continue that market dominance. With the exit December 20 of the established, consistently front-running local morning show, "The Frank and Wanda Show," WVEE hasn't missed a beat.

Moving Ryan Cameron to the morning slot was a natural move. With an already built-in audience loyal to V103 since joining the station in 2005, Ryan lost no time in securing that new base already familiar to him from his subings for Ski. He does have to get up earlier than what his afternoon slot required, but "The Ryan Cameron Morning Show" kicked off 2013 with "The Ryan Report," a familiar sidekick in Chris "Crash" Clark who segues from his afternoon slot where he did Ryan's Total Traffic Report, as well as a new feature from V103's veteran inspirational Sunday morning air personality Larry Tinsley, called the "Daily Affirmation," and his man-on-the-streets, Funny Boo-Boo. Oh yes, and a new theme song from Ludacris, Cameron's former intern.

Cameron stays close to his fellow Atlantans and his recent breakfast interview with the authors of "Manology: Secrets of Your Man's Mind Revealed"—Tyrese and Rev. Run—at Atlanta's W Midtown Hotel, proves he stays on the pulse of what's trending, provoking a continuing dialogue with his listeners. Whether it's a call in from former mayor Shirley Franklin about the school cheating scandal or the UltraViolet group demanding Reebok drop Rick Ross over his rape lyrics, Cameron IS Atlanta. And look for his annual Father Daughter Dance promotion coming up in June through his non-profit Ryan Cameron Foundation.

Egypt Sherrod follows Cameron's mornings with an ever-increasing stronghold on the Atlanta populace. Since her arrival last year, Egypt has secured her daypart both on the air and in the streets where she plays an active role in the community. Ernest Thomas, aka Raj from the TV show "What's Happening," was one of her recent guests on her "Throwback Thursday" segment.

Syndicated personality Big Tigger, who had become a D.C. icon while on the air at CBS Radio's WPJC-FM as afternoon personality first and then covering mornings upon the departure of another radio icon Donnie Simpson, quickly rejoined the CBS Radio family, moving seamlessly into Cameron's afternoon slot. And, he promises to support the Atlanta Falcons—as long as they're not playing the Washington Redskins. Tweeters responding to the new afternoon voice were elated. And now they have the best of both worlds with a longer time spent listening as they start with Ryan and stay throughout the day. Tigger makes sure that's the case by breaking up his daypart with his 3 o'clock quickie and his Big 4 at 4 countdown and special guests discussing his 'trending topics.'

Add the perennial "lord of the streets" who maintains a stronghold on his 6pm-10pm slot and Greg Street completes the V103 weekday lineup.

Whether it's 25-54, 18-34 or 18-49, Rouse knows his market well, and this newly configured team is eager to prove him right by continuing the unprecedented long reign led by Frank Ski and Wanda Smith.

But the team is not yet complete. It's still a work in progress as the station reports to still be seeking an experienced APD/Producer and other on-air staff for WVEE and sister WAOK.



DJ Fadelf with ATL hosts HGTV/V103 personality Egypt Sherrod and new V103 personality Big Tigger at the Atlanta screening of "Dead Man Down" starring Colin Farrell, Terrence Howard, Noomi Rapace and Dominic Cooper.



Ryan Cameron with "Manology" authors Tyrese and Rev. Run



Big Tigger talks with Kelly Rowland



Ryan Cameron



Egypt Sherrod



Big Tigger



Greg Street

Ne-Yo Aruba Bound

Follow that trip by spending Memorial Day weekend, May 22-27, at the 2013 Soul Beach Music Festival in Aruba. Motown recording artist Ne-Yo, who is also Motown Senior VP of A&R headlines the closing night show May 26th at Nikki Beach Amphitheatre where he will be performing songs from his latest album, *R.E.D. (Realizing Every Dream)*. Joining him at the 13th annual event will be Sinbad and D'Angelo, among others.

Hurricane Dave Delivers



"I was proud to present a check for \$2,000 on behalf of 2 Chainz with another 2K coming from Atlantic/Special Ops and yet another 2k from Columbia Records totaling 6k," announced Hurricane Dave, OM of Radio One's Atlanta cluster and PD of urban WHAT-FM (Hot 107.9), as he presented a check to Hosea Feed the Hungry on Easter Sunday.

I Like It!



East Carolina Radio urban WKJX-FM (96.7 the Block) in Elizabeth City, NC PD Brion O'Brion, shown welcoming Atlantic CBE Records artist Sevyn Streeter promoting her new single "I Like it," also welcomed new air personality Karen Parker Chesson, aka KPC, to Middays and Weekends. KPC was previously at WNVZ and WWDE in Norfolk and WVKL in Virginia Beach.



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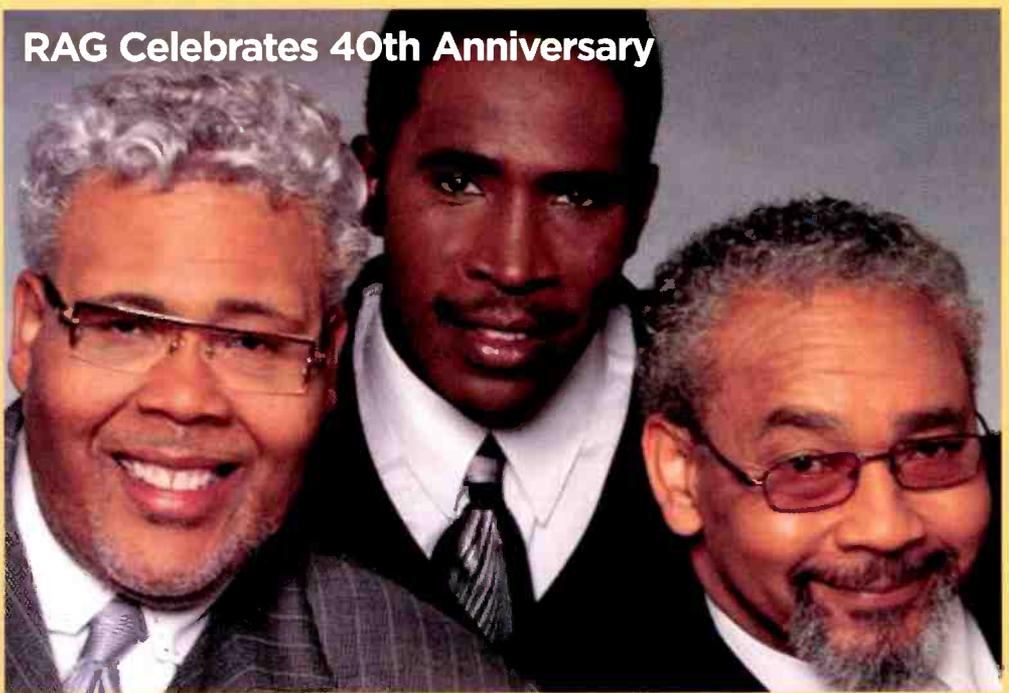
CCM+E Taps Brian Wallace for NOLA PD



Brian Wallace

Clear Channel (CCM+E) named Brian Wallace as the new PD at hip hop WQUE-FM (Q93.3), rhythmic AC WYLD-FM (98.5 WYLD) in New Orleans. Wallace fills the vacancy left when former PD Derrick "DC" Corbett recently moved to the CCM+E's Philadelphia cluster. Wallace, a veteran programmer, was most recently consulting Radio One's Detroit property WDMK-FM and Operations Manager for Radio One's Indianapolis cluster. The Indiana State University alum who majored in graphic design and communications is no stranger to the NOLA market having programmed WYLD-FM from 1988 to 1991 when it was part of Inter Urban Broadcasting. He's also been PD at Charleston, SC's W'WZ-FM, Greensboro, NC's WQMG-FM, and held airtime slots at KKDA-FM in Dallas, KMJM-FM in St. Louis and WFCX/WQOK-FM in Raleigh/Durham, NC. Wallace also owns his own branding company, Crystal Clear Images, LLC, which develops website branding as well as promotional advertising, logos and media graphics.

RAG Celebrates 40th Anniversary



Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) and the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, in association with KTSU and the Gospel Music Heritage Foundation, presented the film "Music Majors: The Rance Allen Group" that documents the rise of the Rance Allen Group from its early days in Monroe, Ohio to becoming Grammy Award nominees. Rance Allen was available following the screening for a panel discussion as the Group is currently celebrating its 40th anniversary with the release of *The Live Experience II: Celebrating 40 Years of Music and Ministry* on Tyscot Records.

Remembering Radio's Rick Roberts (1941-2013)

Houston radio legend Claude Roberts, known to radio as Rick Roberts, was remembered by his friends and family at a memorial service on March 30. He died on March 21 at the age of 72, several weeks after a neighbor found him severely beaten in his home, an incident still under investigation by police. Roberts began his career some 30 years ago at WBOK-AM in New Orleans, later returning to his hometown of Houston where he became a legend at KYOK-AM when AM radio was king. Responsible for jumpstarting the careers of many of the artists in the '70s, Roberts introduced the first radio station on wheels, taking the mobile home that housed KYOK to locations for remote broadcasts. He also introduced live play-by-play sports broadcasts and was the voice of Texas Southern University Tiger Football.



His last position was at public radio station KTSU-FM (90.9), located on the campus of Texas Southern University, which he joined in the '80s first as the Program director and later as General Manager. Having retired in 1993, Roberts was honored by KTSU in 2009 for his invaluable contributions to the station and community.

Rosa Parks Stamped 'Forever'

The U.S. Postal Service unveiled its new Forever Stamp honoring civil rights leader Rosa Parks on her 100th birthday celebration by Troy University Rosa Parks Museum at the site of her famous bus arrest in Montgomery, Alabama.



Harlem Shake Breakout in Dallas



Tom Joyner's Red Velvet Cake Studios in Dallas joined in the national outbreak of spontaneous 'Harlem Shaking' that's been criss-crossing the country. Comedian Damon Williams and friends took over the studios.

WBLX Welcomes Ariel Monae to Middays

Cumulus Media's hip hop WBLX-FM (93 Jamz) in Mobile, Alabama welcomed Ariel Monae to middays, segueing over from the Pensacola market where he worked at CCM+E Top 40 WRGV-FM (107.3). Ariel Monae is the new midday personality. He takes over that timeslot previously covered by PD/MD Jay Nyce, who moves to afternoons to fill the vacancy left by the departure of KJ.

Stevie Wonder Joins Hang Out

Gulf Shores, Alabama announced that Stevie Wonder would be one of the headliners at its fourth annual three-day beach blanket fest called Hangout Music Festival. Scheduled for May 17-19, this year's event also welcomes Public Enemy and Kendrick Lamar, among other indie-rock, electronic and jam-rock performers.

Showers of Praise

Louisiana siblings Regina Showers-Gordon, Rev Bobby Showers Jr., Angela Latrell Showers, Timothy O'Neal Showers, Titus Showers Sr, Tiffany Showers-Pines, Ciara Renee Showers, Tabitha Showers-Tillis, Melody Ralean Showers, and Thaddeus James Showers—collectively known as The Showers—have teamed up with Myron Butler and Bruce Robinson, J. to produce their sophomore album, whose debut radio single "Praise Your Way Through," was released in March.



The Showers



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

Philly's New Morning Show P.M.S. Guaranteed HOT



Laiya

Radio One Philadelphia urban WPHI-FM (Hot 107.9) introduced its new live morning show on April 1 hosted by Philly native daughter Shamara and co-host Laiya, veteran Philly personality. Calling it "P.M.S.", Program Director Sarah O'Connor described Hot's new "Philly Morning Show": "Women have been at the forefront over the last few years from Beyoncé, First Lady Michelle Obama and to the hit TV franchise Real Housewives. So the idea of "P.M.S." with Shamara and Laiya seemed only natural! This will be a show that is a voice for the community, relatable to women and LOVED by men!"

Responding to his listeners, Radio One Regional Vice President, Christopher J. Wegmann explained they "told us they wanted HOT 107.9 to be live, local and fun while playing today's best music in the morning; they are getting that and so much more!"

"This is the first show of its kind in Philadelphia," added Director of Sales, Cassandra Banko, "and we know that these two dynamic women will light up Philly Mornings!"



Shamara

Radio One Philly Launches Old School 100.3

On another front, Jay Stevens, Senior Vice President of Programming for Radio One, Inc., announced a major format change for the marketplace launching Old School 100.3 on the WRNB-FM station. "Philadelphia is the source for some of the greatest R&B of all time," he explained. "Since much of this great music doesn't get regular exposure on the radio, we felt it was time and there was an opportunity to present Philadelphia Old School 24 hours, 7 days a week. It became overwhelmingly transparent after a massive research study done on 100.3, that Old School is the definitive lane for 100.3 to occupy. The excitement and passion for Old School was resounding in all of our market research -- Philadelphia listeners are thirsty for this music!"

Program Director Elroy Smith concurs: We asked the question, and the people of Philadelphia answered emphatically. Old School, Old School, Old School- and as the O'Jays song states 'Give the People What They Want.' Adult listeners will be stuck to this radio station like glue! Philadelphia now has a station that plays the music they know and love. They will be singing every word with artists like the Gap Band, The O'Jays, Teddy Pendergrass, Barry White, Whitney Houston, Evelyn Champagne King, Michael Jackson, Chaka Khan, Marvin Gaye, Parliament-Funkadelic, and many more favorites."

And, "advertisers will love the targeted audience Old School 100.3 will deliver," adds Christopher J. Wegmann, Regional VP/GM Radio One.

Eddie Fennell Moves Up

Edwin "Eddie F" Fennell has been named Assistant Program Director and Music Director for Clear Channel Media and Entertainment Philadelphia urban WUSL-FM (Power 99) and urban AC WDAS-FM. Fennell now oversees all programming for the broadcast and digital operations for WUSL-FM and WDAS-FM in addition to continuing his role as Imaging Director for them as well as WDAS AM, and his role as Imaging Coordinator for Clear Channel Media and Entertainment's National Programming Platforms team. He also continues producing and hosting *The Streetz Sportz Reportz* on Power 99 FM weekdays at 8:00 p.m. EST.



Eddie Fennell

Having joined WUSL some 12 years ago as an intern, Fennell has served integral roles for the network. Or as Derrick Corbertt, Director of Urban Programming, explains, "Eddie has shown tremendous professionalism and a 'team first' attitude. For those reasons, amongst many others, he's earned this new position."

Says Eddie: "I can't describe how thankful and blessed I am for this opportunity. For all the people that opened the door for me and shared their knowledge and leadership, I hope I make them proud."

Mary Mary Join Jesse Jackson's Wall Street Project



(l-r) Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, President Clinton and "Mary Mary" (Erica and Tina Campbell)
—Photo by WE tv/Jason DeCrow

Grammy award winning stars of WE tv's "Mary Mary," Erica and Tina Campbell, performed at the Access to Capital Luncheon sponsored by WE tv as part of Rev. Jesse L. Jackson's 16th Annual Wall Street Project Economic Summit in New York City. Keynoting this year was President Clinton.



Grammy award winning stars of WE tv's "Mary Mary," Erica and Tina Campbell, performed at the Access to Capital Luncheon—Photo by WE tv/Jason DeCrow

Sisters Speak



Sara Lomax-Reese, President/General Manager of WURD-AM (900) moderated the Sisters Speak panel comprised of a brain trust of women who examined the impact of race, culture and history on the body, mind and spirit. (l-r) Lomax-Reese; Ruth King, M.A.; Beverly Toporowski, M.D.; Yaba Blay, Ph.D; and Robin L. Smith, Ph.D.

BMI Presents 'Know Them Now' Showcase

NYC's Canal Room was the site for BMI's "Know them Now" showcase featuring hip hop and R&B talent on the verge of mainstream success. Among the standouts were Def Jam's Big K.R.I.T., Ro James and CharlieRED. —Photos by Joshua Sarnier



Duo CharlieRED perform



BMI Associate Director, Writer-Publisher Relations Ian Holder; Cinematic/Def Jam Records artist Big K.R.I.T.; and BMI Senior Director, Writer-Publisher Relations Wardell Malloy



Singer Ro James performs

Philadelphia Soul



WDAS-AM (1480) morning personality Bobby Holiday discusses the legendary career of The Stylistics: (l-r) The Stylistics' Russell Thompkins, Jr., WDAS-AM 1480 morning personality Bobby Holiday and The Stylistics' Raymond Johnson and Jonathan Buckson.

Wake Up with Sway & Tech...Again

Sirius XM's Shade 45 satellite radio channel welcomed the "Wake Up Show" with hip-hop gurus Sway, King Tech and DJ Revolution. Explains Adrian Miller, one of the show's executive producers: "Sway, King Tech & DJ Revolution are a part of hip hop history. They continue to help us make sense of what we love about Hip-Hop."



CCM+E Philadelphia Launches New Media Integration Department

In another new arena, Clear Channel Media and Entertainment Philadelphia has promoted Joe McCollum to the position of Director of Media Integration in conjunction with the unveiling of the network's new Media Integration Department (M.I.D.). McCollum previously served as Director of Promotions for CCM+E's six Philadelphia radio brands, which include Q102, Radio 104.5, WDAS FM, WDAS AM, Power 99 FM and Mix 106.1.

"The Media Integration Department will provide a more streamlined internal work flow between our promotion, marketing, digital and social networking efforts thus allowing us to elevate and optimize our assets to showcase the power and reach of CCM+E Philadelphia," said Richard Lewis, Market President for Clear Channel Media and Entertainment. "With Joe's experience and leadership skills, he is a great candidate to lead these efforts."

"We're really excited about Joe's new role within the Philadelphia market," added Brian Check, Operations Manager for CCM+E. "His strong understanding of the six Clear Channel radio brands, his proven success in promotions as well as his extraordinary skills with event production, our websites and social networking make him an invaluable part of our senior team and the perfect person to head up M.I.D."

Native Philadelphia McCollum, who also started as an intern in 2001 for Q102 serving in various capacities over the last 12 years in the promotions and Internet Content departments, was most recently Promotions Director for the CCM+E Philadelphia cluster. "I am privileged to lead the tremendous group of individuals that are the heart and soul of our organization in Philly," says McCollum, adding, "and am excited to grow, elevate and expand our powerhouse radio brands in the Philly market and beyond."

Joining him in the newly created Media Integration Specialist positions are Stacey Thomas, who will focus on station events, and Janine Brunson, who focuses on contests and listeners' experiences.

Philly's Praise Time



Radio One Inspiration Format Director Elroy Smith hosted his 3rd Annual Inspiration and Music Conference at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philly on March 23 with such featured artists as Marvin Sapp, Israel Houghton, William McDowell, James Fortune, JJ Hairston & Youthful Praise, Vashawn Mitchell, Pastor Charles Jenkins, Byron Cage, Tamela Mann, Fred Hammond and Pastor Shirley Caesar. Part of the annual event was the selection of the Best Inspirational Singer in America, which was awarded to Angela White this year. Last year's winner, Tamika Patton, was rewarded with a song written by James Fortune.

WBSL/WLIB Promote Koren Vaughn

"I am very excited about taking on this new responsibility and I am looking forward to further developing the company's digital revenue stream," exclaimed Koren Vaughn upon adding responsibilities for leading the WBSL-FM (107.5) and WLIB-AM (1190) YMF Media, LLC stations in developing sales pricing strategy and interactive campaigns for their digital



Koren Vaughn

space. Vaughn, who has been with the stations since 2006, will also continue her current role as Marketing Director, adding Director of Interactive Sales & Marketing.

Adds Deon Levingston, VP/GM, "Koren's leadership and knowledge as our Marketing Director along with her past experience as the Interactive Content Manager for WQHT positions her as the perfect person to lead both of these departments. I am excited to have her in this new role."

Stacy Barthé: P.S. I Love U

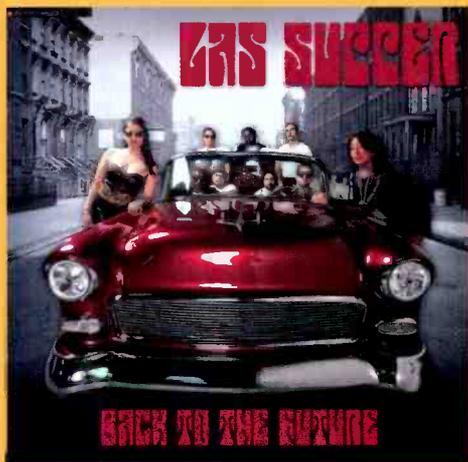
John Legend debuted Brooklyn native Stacy Barthé on his Home School label distributed through Motown on Valentine's Day with the EP *P.S. I Love U*. The singer/

songwriter who has been working behind the scenes for such artists as Britney Spears, Katy Perry, Akon, Estelle, Brandy, Kelly

Rowland and Rihanna was also heard on T.I.'s collaboration with Andre 3000 "Sorry." Singing lyrics aimed at the vivid reality of violence, Barthé preceded her EP with the release of the single "Hell Yeah" featuring Rick Ross and produced by K. Roosevelt of Hit-Boy's HS87 camp. The Grammy-nominated songwriter is signed to Universal Music Publishing Group.



Back to the Future



Grammy-award-winning hip hop artist and MC Big Daddy Kane is taking us "Back to the Future" to New York's vintage soul as he partners with new band members Show Tyme and Lifted Crew, collectively known as Las Supper, for his new album appropriately titled *Back to the Future*.

WURD's Rev. Louise Williams Bishop Hosts Philly's Annual MLK Day

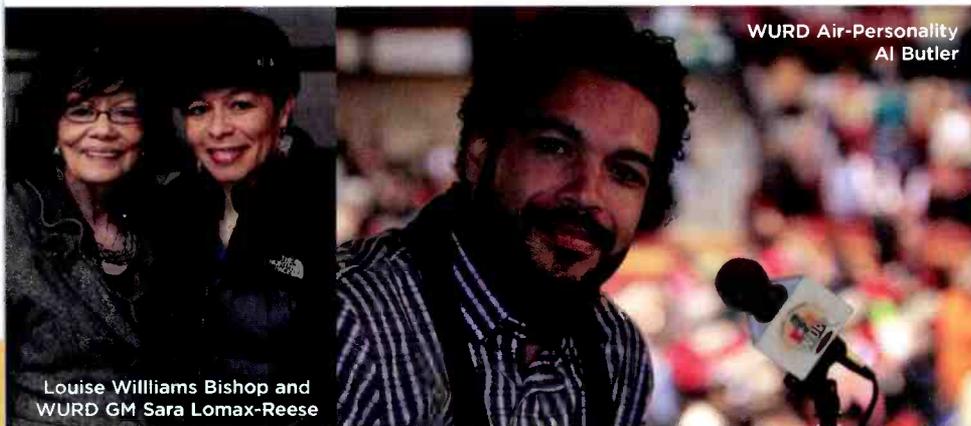
Photos and Text by Calvin Terrell



(l-r) James Bishop, Jr., WDA's Mimi Brown and Louise Williams Bishop

PA State Reps. Louise Williams Bishop and Vanessa Lowrey Brown

Pennsylvania State Representative and LEVAS Communication LP talk WURD-AM (900) radio gospel personality Louise Williams Bishop hosted the 26th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration that drew hundreds to the campus of Saint Joseph's University, the location of King's final Philadelphia appearance. "I am happy to be joined by my son, James Bishop, Jr., who co-hosts this event with me," Bishop said. "This event is necessary to commemorate the life and work of a great man, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and it's a day on and not a day off."



Louise Williams Bishop and WURD GM Sara Lomax-Reese

WURD Air-Personality Al Butler

Portions of the event were broadcasted live on the station where Bishop hosts her popular gospel music program. WURD GM Sara Lomax-Reese joined in the ceremonies that included performances from The Williams Sisters, Pastor Alyn Waller and Enon Tabernacle Choir, The Philadelphia Boys Choir, Brockington Ensemble, Praise dancer Shayna Rudd, Double Praise, Evelyn Graves Drama Ministries, Tamika Patton, Little Sammy's New Flying Clouds Kids, Charlene Holloway, Christian Stronghold Praise Dancers, The Conestoga Angels Drill Team, and Janet McNeil.

Red Bull Music Academy Debuts NYC Culture Clash

The 15th edition of the Red Bull Music Academy hits NYC from April 28 to May 31 with 34 shows, more than 230 artists, 62 handpicked Academy students from some 35 countries for five weeks of special live concerts, curated night clubs and installations, film screenings and public conversations with today's music makers.

First hosted in London in 2010, the Red Bull Music Academy Culture Clash is a staple on the international music scene, and a unique celebration of sound system culture. The first New York edition will feature quintessential crews from hip hop, reggae, modern Latin and electronic dance music including Max Glazer, the man behind the city's best dancehall parties and the Federation Sound; Fool's Gold Records, the genre-defying Brooklyn label headed up by A-Trak and Nick Catchdubs; Young Guru and Just Blaze, the architects of Roc-A-Fella's classic NYC hip hop sound and countless hits from Jay-Z to Rihanna; and Que Bajo?!, a collective known for starting full-on riots with their unique blend of cumbia, moombahton and tropical bass. Every crew will play custom-made tracks only to be heard on the night, and bring out special guests, fighting to win over the crowd and the chance to be named the 2013 Culture Clash champion.



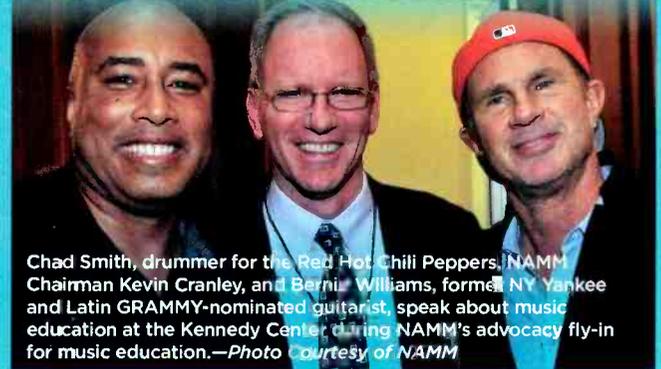
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Reporter: **Rosalind R. Ray, Esq.**

SupportMusic Awards Honor Music Education Advocators

"Not only does playing in a school band help students learn about team work and practice, but playing an instrument also helps them improve their academics and become better students," said Senator Jay Rockefeller accepting his SupportMusic Award as a Music Education Advocacy Hero from NAMM, NafME and the VH1 Save the Music Foundation at its Capitol Hill ceremony. NY Yankee and guitarist Bernie Williams and Chad Smith, drummer for the Red Hot Chili Peppers, performed their rendition of jazz standard "St. James Infirmary" at the SupportMusic presentation during NAMM's annual D.C. Fly-In where some 30 NAMM members, artists and other leaders of the music instrument and products industry convened to advocate to Congress on the importance of comprehensive music education in the nation's schools.



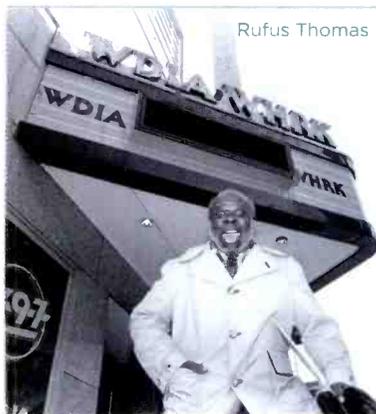
Chad Smith, drummer for the Red Hot Chili Peppers, NAMM Chairman Kevin Cranley, and Bernie Williams, former NY Yankee and Latin GRAMMY-nominated guitarist, speak about music education at the Kennedy Center, during NAMM's advocacy fly-in for music education.—Photo Courtesy of NAMM

D.C.'s Next Big Voice

Passing on the new replacement for the syndicated Michael Baisden Show of Cumulus Media syndicated Skip Murphy and Jasmine Sanders, Howard University's WHUR-FM (96.3) is looking locally for the replacement. According to OM Maxx Myrick, the station is leaving the choice for its afternoon drive to its listeners asking them to vote for the team of local radio personalities to fill that spot.

Among the contenders trying out in afternoons is the duo of Marc Clarke and Troy Johnson, the hosts of "Hang Suite," already heard nightly on Sirius XM 141 HUR-Voces. The two previously commanded Baltimore's WERQ-FM (92Q) Big Phat Morning Show.

Another contender is the "Hang Suite" producer Nikki Strong, whose 15-year radio career has included various capacities, including being the go-to talent for vacationing or sick air personalities.



Rufus Thomas

Memphis Radio Inductees

The Tennessee Radio Hall of Fame will induct 16 radio broadcasters including four legendary Memphis radio personalities in a ceremony in Murfreesboro on May 4. The four Memphis honorees include Rick Dees who is now in Los Angeles, George Klein and Dewey Phillips—both instrumental in the promotion of Elvis Presley's career, and

Rufus Thomas, a charismatic personality and soul singer who continued to broadcast until his death in 2001 on WDIA, the first station in America to be programmed by African Americans. The station will also be honored as a Legendary Station at the ceremony.

CSD Partners with Earnest Pugh

Stellar-award nominated gospel artist Earnest Pugh has partnered his new label, P-Man Music, with Nashville-based Central South Distributors. "I have wanted to work with Chuck Adams, Central South's founder, and Vicki Mack-Lataillade since the 1990s," explains Pugh, who is scheduled to record a new live CD/DVD in Nassau, Bahamas on May 3 with Cedric Thompson producing and featuring collaborations with LeJeune Thompson, Chrystal Rucker, Keith

Williams and Vincent Tharpe & Kenosis.

Says Vicki Mack-Lataillade: "Earnest Pugh is a constant hit maker with a voice that is pure gold! He has just scratched the surface of success with his gift and we are here at Central South to take him all the way and make him an even stronger brand in the entertainment industry as a whole."

Clear Channel Promotes Devin Steel

Clear Channel Media and Entertainment (CCM+E) has promoted from within its ranks, elevating Memphis native Devin Steel, its afternoon drive host at hip hop WHRK-FM (K97.1) to Operations Manager of its Memphis cluster as well as Regional Programming Manager overseeing the company's stations in the Jackson and Laurel-Hattiesburg markets in Mississippi. And he will continue to host his afternoon show.

Says Regional Market Manager Morgan Bohannon: "Devin is the perfect choice to lead Clear Channel Memphis' operations. He has the knowledge, work ethic and passion to take the cluster to the next level."



DC Lottery Soul Train Scratcher

"The D.C. Lottery is proud to be the first lottery in the country to bring the energy, impact, and history associated with the music of Soul Train to our players in the form of this exciting scratcher ticket," said Buddy Roogow, D.C. Lottery executive director. Kicking off the new instant game at D.C.'s Union Station, Tom Joyner and WMMJ-FM (Majic 102.3) joined with Kenard Gibbs, CEO/Partner of Soul Train Holdings, LLC for "Soul Train Day." The DC Lottery Facebook kicked the promotion up a notch adding a digital Soul Train Scramble Board in March. The campaign includes a top prize payout of \$50,000 as well as a chance to win exclusive trips to the annual Soul Train Awards Show and the Soul Train Cruise.

Howard Theater Gala

The Howard Theatre honors Valerie Simpson, Dionne Warwick and Chaka Khan at its 2nd Annual Gala benefiting the Howard Theater Restoration on April 19 with comedians D.L. Hughley and Kym Whitley as hosts.



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Midwest's Feelin' RaVaughn!

Hot off Hot 97's "Who's Next" showcase at SOB's in NYC, Ne-Yo's find, RaVaughn, whom he signed to his Compound University label at Columbia, continued her promotional tour to Chicago promoting her debut single/video with Wale, "Better Be Good," from her upcoming summer album release *Love Always*.



Clear Channel's WGCI-FM (107.5)'s Morning Riot team headed by Tony Sculfield with Nina, Chantele and Leon Rogers welcomed RaVaughn to Chicago featuring her as their Exclusive of the Day.



Radio One's WHHL-FM (Hot 104.1)'s MD/APD and afternoon drive (3pm-7pm) host Staci Static, a native of St. Louis herself, with RaVaughn.



Crawford Broadcasting WPWX-FM (Power 92) afternoon air personality Tone Capone with RaVaughn.

Radio One Brings 'Sylky Ride' to WZAK

Veteran broadcaster Sam Sylk, the highly popular air personality whose career has included spots at WGCI and WPWX in Chicago and WUSL in Philadelphia, resurfaces in Cleveland for middays at Radio One's urban AC WZAK-FM (93.1). According to Radio One OM Colby Colb, this is a return for Sylk who was on urban WENZ-FM (Z107.9) 14 years ago: "Sam has had two tours of duty in Cleveland and is well known in the community. This is a big coup for WZAK and we are excited to have him."



To celebrate his return to the market on April 8, WZAK played all of the 'Sam Jams' that make you say, "I can't believe you played that" all weekend.

Sylk, author of the book "Men Do What Women Allow" and his own replaces Robyn

Schedule for Success

Dorinda Clark Cole, host of "Dorinda Show" on TCT TV in Detroit, interviewed author and motivational speaker Paul D. Jones about his latest self-help book, "Schedule for Success," the follow up to his first book, "Who Told You...You Were Broke?" Clark, a three-time Grammy winner, also hosts TCT's "Celebrate on the Road" and recently partnered with Detroit fashion designer Mr. Song to create the couture collection of hat adorning accessories called The Bloom Collection.



Simone, which still leaves openings at Radio One Cleveland: in addition to parttime air-talent at both stations, Colb is seeking a replacement for Bijou Starr at urban WENZ-FM as she segues to WGPR middays in Detroit.

Power's Noelle Empowering



Radio One urban WCKX-FM (Power 107.5) in Columbus, Ohio, midday personality Nia Noelle has partnered with the Cincinnati Scholarship Foundation to launch the Nia Noelle Scholarship Fund to be awarded annually to a student seeking a degree in media such as print, radio or television.

Students must also be a resident of one of the following areas: Columbus, Ohio; Franklin County, Ohio; Cleveland County, Oklahoma or attending her alma mater of The University of Arkansas, Fayetteville Campus and must have a 2.75 GPA. The scholarship recipient will be selected by July 29, 2013. For more information, go to www.nianoelle.com.

R. Kelly Headlines Pitchfork Fest

Bjork, R. Kelly and Belle and Sebastian will headline the 2013 Pitchfork Music Festival scheduled for July 19-21 at its traditional location, Chicago's Union Park.

DJ Wreck 1 Moves to Middays

Radio One Indianapolis hip hop WHHH-FM (Hot 96.3) Music Director DJ Wreck 1 has moved to the midday shift from his evening slot to cover the vacancy left by Jaquay "Broadway Quay" Bangs, who moved to Gold Coast Broadcasting Top 40 KFVY-FM (100.5) in Ojai, California as VP of Programming and Operations.

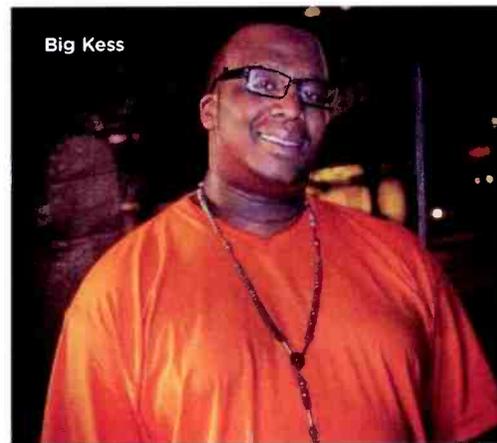
Imported from Detroit

HYDRO was the winner of the Heineken Hot 17.5 and DJ BJ Imported to Detroit concert series. Judges--Program Director of Hot 1075 Jay Hicks, Helleuva and Young Roc--believed his rap performance was the most solid, organized and energetic amongst his competition.



Big Kess Goes WILD

Summit City hip hop WNHT-FM (Wild 96.3) in Fort Wayne, Indiana has added "The Big Kess Show" with Big Kess and Sara Lauer. Big Kess, a former member of the singing group Ajanté, recently celebrated his 10 year anniversary at Piere's with none other than R. Kelly hosting.



Wiz Nation Silver Anniversary EJ Grieg Promoted to PD

Radio One urban WIZF-FM (101.1 the Wiz) celebrated its 25th year anniversary on March 30 inside the Sharonville Convention Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. Featured performers include Elle Varner, DJ Kid Capri and Jarvis.

Add to that celebration the promotion of APD and midday host EJ Grieg to Program Director. Now if only the Wolverines, the basketball team from his University of Michigan alma mater, win the Final Four, Grieg's Wiz Nation spring will be a slam dunk!



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BET Celebrates Gospel



(l-r) Reality television star Reverend Omarosa Manigault ("Celebrity Apprentice"), SVP of Production at Sony Pictures DeVon Franklin, and gospel recording artist Tye Tribbett

—Photo by BET Networks/ Getty Images. Courtesy of The FrontPage Firm

Sony Pictures film studio executive, author of "Produced By Faith" and inspirational speaker DeVon Franklin delivered a soul-stirring invocation at the 2013 Celebration of Gospel Kick-Off Prayer Breakfast.



Singer/reality star Tamar Braxton with Phil Thornton, reality TV producer/label executive and talent manager backstage at the BET Celebration of Gospel. Thornton, along with his partner Coy Allen, are developing a Braxton style reality series starring Michelle Williams of Destiny's Child.

BMI Hitmakers Share



Sharing songwriting secrets at the BMI "How I Wrote That Song" at The Roxy Theater in Los Angeles.

(l-r) Catherine Brewton, Vice President, Writer/Publisher Relations, BMI, David Claassen, Director, Writer/Publisher Atlanta, BMI, Nicole Platin, Director, Writer/Publisher Los Angeles, BMI, BMI musicians Luke Laird, Malik Levy, Barbara Cane, VP General Manager, Writer/Publisher Relations, Los Angeles, BMI, Senior Director, Writer/Publisher Los Angeles, BMI, B.o.B, Snoop Lion, Evan Bogart and Busta Rhymes and Byron Wright, Director, Writer/Publisher Atlanta, BMI and Alison Smith SVP Performing Rights, BMI—Photo by Joe Scarnici/WireImage

Black PR Society Relaunches LA Chapter

"Our national organization was founded in Los Angeles by the late Pat Tobin, whose spirit is with us today," said Phyllis D. Banks, vice president of BPRS-LA, a board member of the national organization and president of P. Banks Communications, at the relaunch of the L.A. chapter, which had become inactive. "Our primary focus is professional development, career advancement, information sharing and promoting diversity within the industry," said Shawn Turner, president of BPRS-LA and manager of public relations for Disney Consumer Products, who welcomed guest speaker Devon Franklin to the relaunch.



Shown: special guest speaker Sony Pictures film exec Devon Franklin with BPRS-LA leaders Tosha Whitten Griggs, Shawn Turner, and Phyllis Banks

—Photo by Raul Roa/Disney

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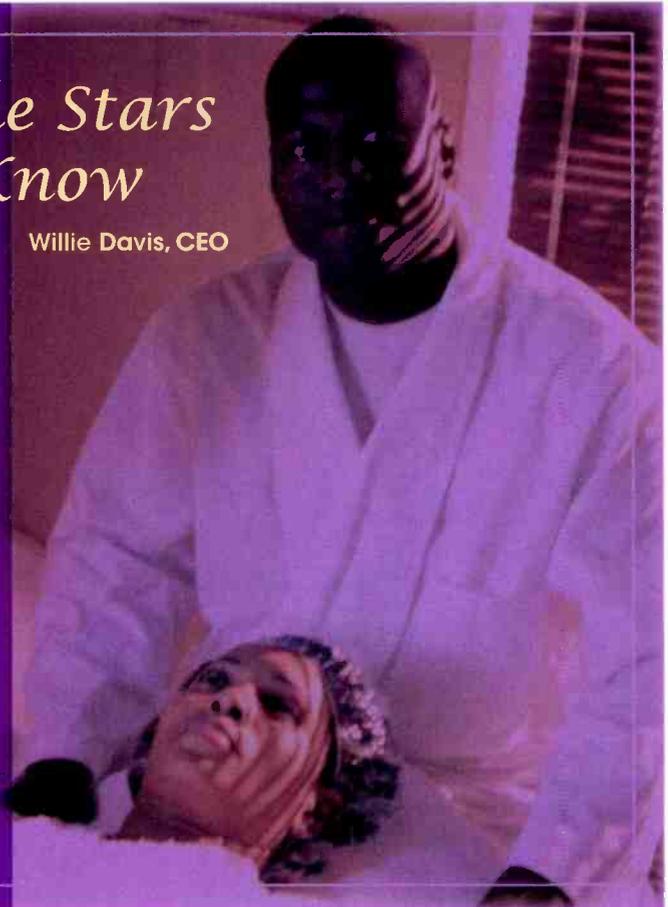
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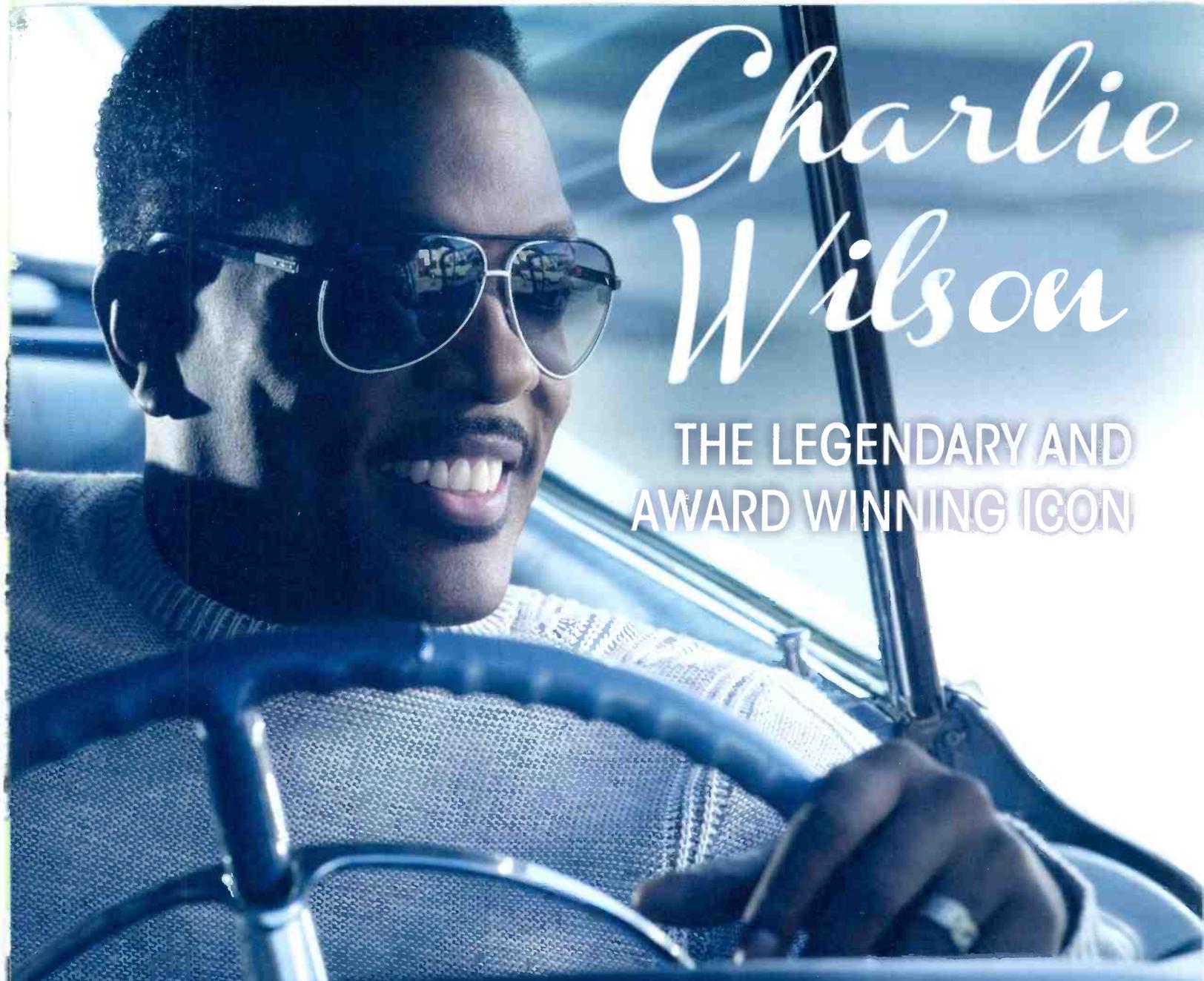


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A photograph of Charlie Wilson, an African American man with a mustache, wearing aviator sunglasses and a grey sweater, smiling while driving a classic car. The background is a bright, slightly blurred outdoor setting.

Charlie Wilson

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