



ENTERTAINMENT



Janet Jackson To Embark On First Concert Tour Ever In 1990

World Tour Announced As Rhythm Nation Album And Singles Top Charts And Platinum Sales Marks

A&M artist Janet Jackson, whose Janet Jackson's Rhythm Nation 1814 has become her second straight multi-platinum, number one charted album, will begin her first-ever concert tour on March 1, 1990 at the Miami Arena, Miami, Florida.

The first leg of Jackson's "Rhythm Nation World Tour 1990" will also include initial stops in Cincinnati, Cleveland and other American cities. Additional dates will be announced next month.

The Rhythm Nation album, Jackson's first since Control vaulted the young singer-songwriter-performer into superstar status in 1986, is nearing the three million sales mark, and held down the Number One spot on the Billboard pop album chart for four consecutive weeks.

In addition, "Miss You Much," the first single from the album, has been certified platinum after having logged four straight weeks at Number One on the Billboard Hot 100; the four-week stint at the top was a first for any artist in over a year, and the first by a female artist in some four years. Radio & Records, an important record and radio trade publication, picked "Miss You Much" as the #1 Single of 1989. The follow-up single, "Rhythm Nation," was released on October 24th and is currently charted at #2 "with a bullet" on the Billboard Hot 100.

For the "Rhythm Nation World Tour 1990," Jackson will be joined on stage by 17 other performers, including 11 musicians and backup singers and six dancers. Assisting the artist as music director is producer/recording artist Chuckii Booker ["Turned Away" (Don't U Know) I Love U"], whose own band will be the opening act. Tour choreography will be by Jackson and Anthony Thomas, who also collaborated on the dance sequences for the Rhythm Nation telemusical, the 30-minute film that accompanied the release of the Rhythm Nation album.

When Jackson and her two co-producers, James "Jimmy Jam" Harris and Terry Lewis, began work on the album that would become Rhythm Nation, they were guided by Janet's determination to fuse entertainment values with a social conscience, making music that would have a positive impact and would articulate her convictions regarding such matters as bigotry, illiteracy, drugs, violence, and the plight of the homeless.

Along with the album itself, Jackson

expresses her concerns with the Rhythm Nation telemusical. Directed and photographed by Dominic Sena ("Let's Wait Awhile," "Pleasure Principle") the tele-musical combines music from the album with innovative dance sequences and a continuing storyline. Its three special previews on MTV resulted in the cable channel's largest-ever viewer audiences for that time slot. The telemusical is now available in commercial release, and has already topped the quadruple platinum sales mark.



Pathways Program Sponsors First Youth Conference

"On Becoming A Woman" Focuses On Stages Of Womanhood"

Middle school and high school-age girls from North and Northeast Portland are invited to a free Pathways youth conference, "On Becoming A Woman," on Saturday, Feb. 3, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Matt Dishman Community Center.

A complimentary lunch will be served at Noon to pre-registered participants. Mothers, other relatives, and friends are also encouraged to attend.

The National Black Women's Health Project (NBWHP) is conference co-sponsor. Sharon Gary-Smith, NBWHP development specialist, will lead group discussions on health, nutrition and improving communication within the family. Participants will view the NBWHP film, "On Become A Woman: Mothers and Daughters Talking Together."

The luncheon will include older "Women of Wisdom" from the greater Portland area who will speak from experience on how life's struggles can be overcome with perseverance. Cellist Karen Patterson will perform songs in honor of the women.

Pathways is an American Red Cross youth program that emphasizes health, self awareness/values, and school/career issues in an effort to divert participants from negative behaviors such as substance abuse, teen pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases and towards successful adulthood.

The Matt Dishman Community Center is located at 77 N.E. Knott. Contact Patricia Parnell, Minority Outreach specialist, at 284-1234, ext. 184, or Lynn Ervins, Pathways specialist, at 284-1234, ext. 194, by Thursday, Feb. 1, to pre-register and for more information.

BEHIND-THE-SCENES

by Lisa Collins

Morgan Freeman On The Trail Of An Oscar? Industry insiders who've tagged actor Morgan Freeman as a certain Oscar nominee for his work in "Driving Miss Daisy," are feeling even more confident now that Freeman picked up the Oscar for best actor at the recently held Golden Globe Awards. The awards, voted on by the foreign press, are said to generally set the trends for the Academy Awards. Said Freeman (at the mention of getting an Oscar nomination or award): "You should never expect these things. If they happen, you've got to act surprised" . . . Meanwhile, Denzel Washington took home a Golden Globe award for best supporting actor for his work in "Glory," which also stars Morgan Freeman . . . **Louis Gossett Jr. and Blair Underwood** recently teamed to present a project to NBC, in which they would play father and son. The story is based on a newspaper account of a son who meets his estranged father for the first time in prison . . . In other casting news, **Richard Roundtree** bowed in as a regular on NBC's new soap, "Generations." The actor, who made his mark as "Shaft," made his first on-air appearance last week.

Members of New Edition Spread Their Wings: While New Edition's lead Ralph Tresvant fulfilled his contractual promise to MCA records with regards to a solo album, and Johnny Gill did the same for Motown Records, the remaining members of New Edition--Ronnie, Ricky and Mike, decided to get together and do their own thing. Calling themselves "BBD," (the initials of their last names--Bell, Bivens, and Devoe) they went into the studios to do some recording of their own. You'll be able to hear what they came up sometime in mid-March, when the album, titled "Bell, Biv & De-Voe" is released. Meanwhile, there is as yet no release date for Ralph Tresvant's solo LP. As to Johnny Gill, his album is slated for release on Motown Records sometime in March. Motown chief Jheryl Busby predicts the album will sell about 5,000,000 copies. (That's quintuple platinum, folks!)

On The Town: James Earl Jones, Spike Lee, Denzel Washington, "L.A. Law" star Corbin Bernsen, Robert Townsend, and Billy Dee Williams were among those on hand in Los Angeles recently for the glittery opening night of playwright August Wilson's latest work, "The Piano Lesson." Wilson who won a great deal of critical acclaim as well as a Tony with his Broadway play "Fences" (which starred James Earl Jones) has been called "the American theater's great find of the decade." Wilson is currently at work adapting the screenplay of "Fences" which was optioned by Paramount (at the request of Eddie Murphy). Incidentally, Wilson is advocating that a Black director be hired for the project.

Awards, Awards & More Awards: It is once again the season of the award show, what with the recent American Music Awards, and the upcoming Grammys . . . and Soul Train Awards. This season's heavy hitters (big winners) are predicted to be Janet Jackson, Bobby Brown, Milli Vanilli, Tone-Loc, and of course Paula Abdul. While on the subject of awards, when Bobby Brown picked up his first award for "favorite soul/R&B album, he dedicated the award to "Juanita." But it's not what you think. The "Juanita," he referred to was my friend, Juanita Stephens, who serves as Vice-president of publicity and artist development for MCA Records, and who worked her "you-know-what" off to see he got all the attention he deserved.

In Short: Harpo Studios (Oprah Winfrey's facilities in Chicago) is expected to be fully operational by the end of next week, which times perfectly with production on Winfrey's new TV series, "Brewster's Place," which is to begin shooting in May. Actor-producer Bill Duke has been tapped to direct . . . Next week: A few words with Janet Jackson.

The Diabolical Biz Markie "The Biz Never Sleeps"

Goin' Off: It was the aptly titled debut album from one of the freshest, most innovative and provocative young rappers on the scene today. Biz Markie's smash 1988 release on Cold Chillin'/Warner Bros. Records featured a bumper crop of real, relevant and riveting rap, including such standout cuts as "Vapors," "Nobody Beat The Biz," "This Is Something For The Radio" and the glorious gross out "Pickin' Boogers." It was an auspicious curtain-raiser for a rap artist who was setting the pace even as he pioneered a whole new kind of savvy, street level rap.

Well, since then, the Biz has fulfilled his early promise by "going off" in some brand new directions with his hot new Cold Chillin' release, The Biz Never Sleeps. Produced by Biz with his ace co-conspirator, Cut Master Cool V, The Biz Never Sleeps features Biz Markie's sizzling new single "Just A Friend" as well as such state-of-the-art raps as "A Thing Called Kim," "Spring Again," "The Dragon" and "Things Get A Little Easier." It's a hip hop tour de force that consolidates Biz Markie's reputation as rap's reigning prac-

Born Marcel Hall in Harlem, April 8, 1964, Biz Markie seems to be the creation of a mad B-movie scientist, with a weird sense of genetics, not to mention humor. It's not at all difficult to imagine George Clinton's Dr. Funkenstein concocting Biz Markie in his electro-funk laboratory aboard the Mothership, although Biz is very much his own creation, mixing elements of the street urchin, the grand old medicine show tradition and the satchelmouth tomfoolery of Louis Armstrong. With his gift of rap gab, the ability to rock the house with rhythmic rhymes over a funky beat, Biz mixes his years of experience literally living on the street, with a sure-fire feel for truth and real!

The result is The Biz Never Sleeps, a wide-awake slice of pure rap from one of the best in the biz-ness. But records and touring are only part of Biz' busy schedule. A brand new cartoon show, conceived by Biz and titled The Adventures of Mouse Man, is currently in production, making Biz one of the first multi-media rap stars ever.



THE HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS RETURN!

When: Sunday, February 11 Time: 5 p.m.
Where: Memorial Coliseum

Tickets on sale NOW!

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Ticket service charge \$1.00. Charge-A-Ticket: 248-4496
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OREGON BALLET THEATRE PRESENTS DANCE THEATRE OF Harlem

Arthur Mitchell, DIRECTOR

Security Pacific Bank is proud to sponsor the Portland performances of Dance Theatre of Harlem. Feb. 20, 21 and 23, 1990, 8:00 p.m. Portland Civic Auditorium. Tickets \$55 to \$20. Call Oregon Ballet Theatre, 227-6867, Portland Center for the Performing Arts, 248-4496, or visit any G.I. Joe's/Ticketmaster outlet.

Program: Swan Lake, Act II Tchaikovsky
The Firebird, Stravinsky
Concerto in F, Gershwin

The Chase Manhattan Corporation is the 1989/90 Worldwide Tour Sponsor of Dance Theatre of Harlem.



THE DIABOLICAL BIZ MARKIE

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And Portland's Own Krowd Kontrol

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