

ENTERTAINMENT

By All Means

Glenn Jones Emerges On Atlantic Records

"This is the first album where I really got to do my music the way I wanted to, and I know that is going to make a big difference. From now on, people are going to know exactly who Glenn Jones is, and what to expect from him."



Real singing. Real music. Real lyrics about real-life situations. It is no surprise then that the scintillating Motown debut album from By All Means is entitled *It's Real*. Since real, honest music is indeed timeless, By All Means deliver a brilliant package that recalls an era when authentic, from-the-heart soul was the name of the game -- while remaining totally in tune, current and contemporary.

From ultra-soulful tracks like "The Feeling I Get" to a super update of the Motown classic "Ain't Nothin' Like The Real Thing" to the slowburnin' jam "Tonight" through the jazzy, groove-laden "Say You'll Never Leave Me," the group's latest album is a testament to their innovative artistry and their sensitive musicality. Put another way, *It's Real* contains cutting-edge songs like "Love Lies" that is emotionally raw, and a warm sensual vocal on "I Wanna Be Loved" delivered by the group's only female. "There's a natural maturing that takes place over time and this album reflects our experience in life," says Jimmy. "The subject matter is definitely deeper than what we wrote about before: I'd say our emotional vocabulary has expanded.

Produced by lead singer Jimmy Varner and production partner Stan Sheppard (the team that also master-minded hits for Motown labelmates Gerald Alston and The Temptations), *It's Real* is the album that promises to take this talented trio to a whole new level of recognition and response.

The trio originally got together around 1987: New Jersey-native Jimmy Varner met vocalist Lynn Roderick when the two were both touring with Bill Withers. Chicago-born producer Stan Sheppard was impressed with their respective talents and asked if they would be interested in being "part of a group that would give you basic, good old-fashioned R&B," recalls Stan. Sheppard introduced the two to his brother Billy, who had been writing songs for CBS, and with that, By All Means was born.

The first album, recorded in 1988 yielded the hit singles, "I Surrender To Your Love" and "I'm The One Who Loves You." In the U.K. the LP was well-received and critically acclaimed as one of the best R&B albums to come from a new group in several years. In 1989, Beyond a Dream, the second album, brought them a vast audience and two top ten R&B hits - an updated version of Marvin Gaye's "Let's Get It On" and a second single, "Do You Remember." By All Means also toured domestically, as well as in Europe and Japan during 1990.

Musician-ship that is in-sync, on time and in-the-pocket. Carefully created, layered harmonies. So-so-soulful lead vocals. This time around, By All Means sings songs that deal with everyday ups and downs of love in the Nineties. Honesty, sincerity, music performed with feeling. There ain't nothin' like the real thing. By All Means. On Motown Records. *It's Real*. Accept no substitutes.

Chart-topping vocalist Glenn Jones has been thrilling audiences since childhood, when he was a soloist with his church choir in Jacksonville, Florida. With "Here I Go Again," his first album for Atlantic Records, Glenn has created his most powerful album to date -- moving his music, and the state of R&B in general, in a refreshing new direction.

"My family has always been deeply rooted in the church," Glenn notes, "and at the age of four, I started asking my mother to convince the church pastor to let me sing. They heard me, and from that moment on, I was always singing."

At eight, Jones joined Bivens Special, a gospel family from his hometown, and he began to tour extensively. He started playing guitar, writing, and arranging, and at 14, he put together The Modulations, a gospel group with whom he recorded two albums.

"After being out on the road at such a young age, I got a chance to appreciate the good times," says Glenn. "I paid a lot of dues. I've been on tour and not eaten for a week, sleeping in the van, and not knowing however we were going to get the money to get back home."

Glenn was brought to Savoy Records at the age of 16 by gospel legend the Reverend James Cleveland. Taking to the national gospel circuit, Jones refined his outstanding pipes while sharing the stage with some of the genre's greats, including the Reverend Cleveland, Shirley Caesar, and the Mighty Clouds of Joy.

As his gospel reputation grew, Glenn began to receive offers to work in the contemporary R&B field. After singing with Norman Connors on the sessions for "Melancholy Fire," a top-ten R&B hit, as well as with Jean Carne, Jones decided to try his hand at a secular career.

At 19, he cut his first non-gospel mini-LP, 1982's "Everybody Loves A Winner." The first single, "I Am Some-



body," featured excerpts from speeches by the Reverend Jesse Jackson, with Glenn donating a percentage of the song's royalties to Jackson's Operation Push.

"Mainly, the thing that made me a little hesitant to sing R&B was my family's strong ties to the church, and I was concerned with how they would feel," Glenn recalls. "When I did make the transition, I still tried to make my music uplifting and inspiring. I was very lyric conscious, and I still am."

Glenn's first full-length album, 1983's "Finesse," stayed on the charts for 10 months, yielding several hit singles - including "Show Me," which reached #3 on the national R&B charts. Between "Finesse" and his next album, 1986's

"Take It From Me," Jones starred with Jennifer Holliday in the off-Broadway show, *Sing, Mahalia, Sing*.

After touring with the show for eight months, Jones recorded a duet with Dionne Warwick, a song written and produced by Burt Bacharach and Carole Bayer Sager. Titled "Finder Of Lost Loves," from the television series of the same name, it was an AC radio smash, providing further evidence of Glenn's multi-format potential.

Jones' string of hits continued with "Giving Myself To You" from the "Take It From Me" album. A year later, he enjoyed his biggest record to date with "We've Only Just Begun." Culled from the 1987 "Glenn Jones"

album, it climbed to the #2 spot on the R&B singles charts, confirming Glenn's reputation as a proven hit-maker. His winning streak continued with 1990's "Ain't For You," which yielded the top-ten R&B hit, "Stay."

Before he began work on his next album, Jones felt it was time for a label change, and he set his sights on Atlantic. "I'm very excited about coming to Atlantic," Jones exclaims. "Atlantic's Sylvia Rhone (now Chairman/CEO of Atlantic's Atco/EastWest division) and I have been talking for a long time. I have a lot of faith in her, and she believes in me."

Indeed, "Here I Go Again," Glenn's Atlantic debut, more than fulfills the expectations of his fans, both in and out of the music industry. Glenn wrote or co-wrote 10 of the album's 11 killer tunes, working in conjunction with the talented songwriter/producers he chose for the project.

The album kicks off with the funky ballad, "I've Been Searchin' (Nobody Like You)," co-written by Glenn and producer/composer Bernard Belle. Bernard, brother of R&B star Regina Belle, numbers among his credits such artists as Guy, the Winans, Boy George, and Michael Jackson, who grabbed two of Bernard's tunes for his latest album, "Dangerous."

One of the most powerful and moving tracks on the album is the ballad "In You," which has multi-format appeal written all over it. "On this one, I am saying that I had given up on Love," Glenn relates. "Suddenly you came, and everything that I dreamed about and everything that I had wanted, I found in you."

"I want people to walk away from listening to 'Here I Go Again' feeling positive and uplifted," states Jones. "I just hope they find it to be something refreshing, something that's on time, and something new that they need."

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Urban Talent In Search Of Movie Extras

The Urban Talent Association is looking for approximately 50 people between the ages of 21 and 35 of various ethnic backgrounds to play extras in the movie *Danger Sign*, currently filming in the Portland area. They will be portraying patrons in a nightclub scene. The proceeds from this project are to benefit Urban Talent, a talent agency with particular focus on people of color which is committed to using its profit to sponsor performing arts training for children in the inner city. *Danger Sign* is a suspense thriller starring Marlee Matlin and Martin Sheen, and is directed by Robert Greenwald. Previous acting experience is not required. In return for their participation, actors will receive membership in the Urban Talent Association which will entitle them to reduced rates on U.T.A. sponsored classes, workshops, and on headshot and fashion photography.

At this time, Urban Talent is also seeking experienced actors and models of all ages and ethnic backgrounds for commercial and film work, and print and runway modeling. Persons interested in more information should call 287-8065.

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