

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Expectations Great For Jade's New Release



Tonya Kelly, Joi Marshall and Di Reed of the group Jade.

A record shattering debut album can happen if the harmonies are tight, the production top notch, the look tight and fate smiles. Jade's first album was a masterpiece of timing as the public embraced the trio's matchless harmonies, stylish look and powerful delivery.

It can be tougher the second time around - expectations are greater, comparisons inevitable. Jade's Mind, Body and Song quickly dismisses any doubts and easily withstands time's acid test by delivering dazzling new music that captures all the talent glimpsed in their debut and delivers even more.

JADE

This new collection of songs is proof positive these three young women have grown in depth, dimension and dedication in the year and a half since their knockout gold debut album, Jade to the Max.

Success came so quickly, they crisscrossed the world, touring and doing TV spots (everything from The Tonight Show and Soul Train to multiple Arsenio appearances and six shots on England's wildly popular Top of the Pops).

As their hit singles, I Wanna Love You, Don't Walk Away and

One Woman, raced up the charts and made them a familiar name on radio, they grew closer. New friends when this whirlwind began, Tonya, Joi and Di began to discover more about each other. They often strayed up all night, sharing everything from their favorite gospel, jazz and R&B songs; who likes spicy food, who can't resist a new puppy; who calls home the most; who can catch a cab the quickest in the rain; who stays up all night to write; to what satisfies the heart's desire in each one of these sisters linked by fate and by music.

Gladys Knight

One Of Contemporary Music's Most Prodigious Talents

With a highly contemporary edge, Just For You is indeed classic Gladys Knight, thanks to the participation of super hit makers Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, and Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds among others. It's a collection of truly great tunes, the perfect mix of soul-filled, heart-felt ballads and infectious grooves, each one imbued with that special feeling that Gladys invests into each and every song she sings.



"I called this album Just For You because it's music for the people, the people who have always been with me as well as for the new fans we have. Because of the feedback I get from most of the fans who attend my concerts, I know there's a market out there for people who want the kind of music that's on this record," said Gladys.

Her second solo album for MCA, Gladys' latest work is a lyrical testament to love, strength and truth; from the upbeat "Next Time" to her so-soulful, show-stopping "End of the Road" medley.

The co-producer of three cuts and the executive producer of the



album with manager (and son) Jimmy Newman, Gladys says Just For You is a departure from previous projects: "I got to be me. It wasn't about trying to compete with what's happening today. I didn't experience any kind of pressure, spoken or unspoken, to do that. There have been times in the past when I felt that to be accepted, we had to come with dance-oriented music; I didn't want that to be the motivating factor this time. We took our time and making this was a very peaceful process for me."

A career milestone, Just For You is an album filled from start to finish with standouts. There's "I Don't Wanna Know," a super ballad produced and written for Gladys by Grammy winner Babyface who she notes, "is one of my favorite songwriters. I've been doing his music in my live show for a long time and our schedules just didn't permit us to get together until now. I'm glad it worked out because working with him was more than a dream!"

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In Concert This Week!!

R. Kelly

For a guy who once performed on Chicago's elevated train platforms to display his musical talents R. Kelly has come in a long way.

His career has advanced so far with his second album 12 Play that it broke the record by holding the number-one spot on the Billboard's R&B chart, topping The Bodyguard soundtrack which held the spot for eight weeks. Kelly's double platinum album held the number-one spot 12 consecutive weeks and didn't seem to be losing appeal. It also peaked at number one on Billboard's pop charts. It has sold more than two million copies in its first 10 weeks.

"Sex Me" is the first single on his album, released on the Jive Records label. Other popular tunes include "Your Body's Callin'," "Bump N' Grind," and "I like the Crotch On You."

It also includes an old Spinners tune, "Sadie," dedicated to his later mother. "I go back very far with 'Sadie.' My mama used to always ask me to sing it around the house. She just loved to hear me sing that song. It reminds me of every mom around the world."

Robert Kelly is no stranger to success. His previous album, Born Into the '90's established him as a force to be reckoned with in the industry. It sold one million copies with such tunes as "Honey Love" and "Show Dance (Hey Mr. DJ)."

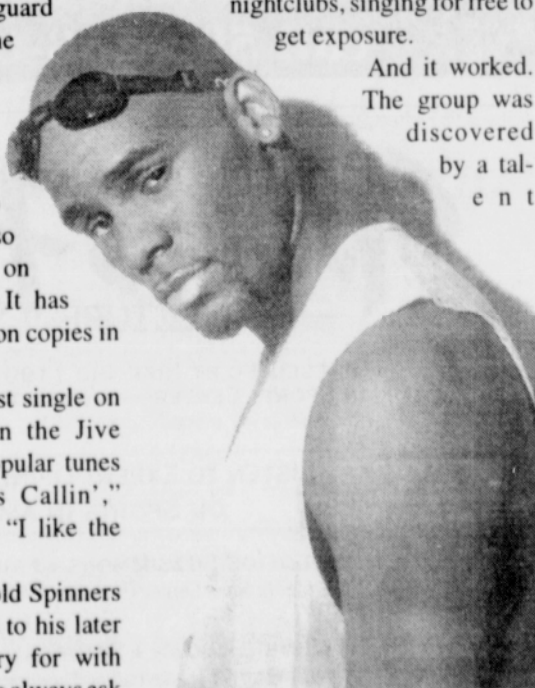
And what makes all of this so amazing is Kelly wrote, produced and performed all the tunes himself. A self-taught musician, Kelly plays all the music for each tune.

That's amazing for a guy who

performed for free on Chicago's elevated train platforms. He says someone placed a hat nearby one day and people started dropping money in it while waiting for their trains.

Kelly and his former group, Robert Kelly and MGM, were regulars at one of Chicago's popular nightclubs, singing for free to get exposure.

And it worked. The group was discovered by a talent



scout. The members later appeared on Natalie Cole's Big Break television talent show and won the \$100,000 grand prize. Kelly split with the group afterward.

Since then Kelly, 25, has produced for Gladys Knight, David Peaston and High Five. He also produced three singles for the Winans on their album All Out, singing a duet with Ronald Winans on the tune "That Extra Mile."

We wonder if anyone would recognize him today if he visited one of those elevated train platforms where he used to perform enthusiastically. Perhaps they will.

Art Sought For Black History Month Exhibit

Oregon's Commission on Black Affairs is seeking afrocentric art of any medium to exhibit in the State Capitol Building during Black History Month, February 1995. Interested artists should submit 35-mm slides no later than November 30, 1994, to Oregon Commission on Black Affairs, P.O. Box 751, Portland, OR 97207. Maximum per artist is four entries.

According to Charles Stoudamire, the commission's executive director, the group hopes to increase awareness of African American artists' contributions, social issues and concerns.

"Black History Month provides us with an opportunity to applaud African American's accomplishments: The commission felt that this exhibit would be worthwhile and educational for Oregon's residents," Stoudamire said.

Oregon's Commission on Black Affairs is dedicated to achieving social, political, economic, and legal equality for Oregon's African Americans.

Stoudamire feels that an exhibit with an emphasis on African American artists and their work in the State Capitol is a significant accomplishment. He hopes that artists at all levels will respond to the commission's search for work.

"We want to celebrate during Black History Month while learning and growing. There is much we can learn from the messages in our artists' work."

Anyone needing additional information should call Stoudamire, at (503) 725-4646.

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