

# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

## Harmony Innocents

The Portland Observer

The Portland Observer celebrates its... **25th** ANNIVERSARY



Shamika Shauntel Brown, Quynone Denise Perry and Dawn Marie McGee are the vocal talents that comprise H.I. "We knew each other in high school," states Dawn, "and Shamika had this group. One day in choir class she comes up to me as we are singing 'Be Grateful' and says, 'I just started this girls group and I like your voice, do you want to join us? So I went to a practice and they were awful, except for Shamika,'" she laughed.

"I tried to get out of the next practice," continues Dawn, "and told my momma to tell her I was on punishment, but they came to

my house and cornered me. From then on Shamika and I became friends and began working very hard together to form a strong group and make our dream come true."

Shamika remembers the beginning this way. "I have been singing in choirs since I was young and I was scared to sing by myself, and I always wanted to be in a group like Five Star, so I decided to start one myself. I got a group together and later hooked up with Dawn just like she said. There were times when we nearly gave up, felt we'll never make it, but we kept on going."

Dawn interjects, "One day a bunch of us girls went on a modeling trip, and Shamika and I were playing our demo tape in the van when in the back we hear Quynone singing very softly to the song. We turned to her and said, 'girl we didn't know you could sing?!' Quynone laughed and I didn't think much about it." Shamika, on the other hand thought a lot about it. Instinctively she knew Quynone was the missing element of the group and pursued her. "Soon after that," states Shamika, "I tricked Quynone in to meet our produc-

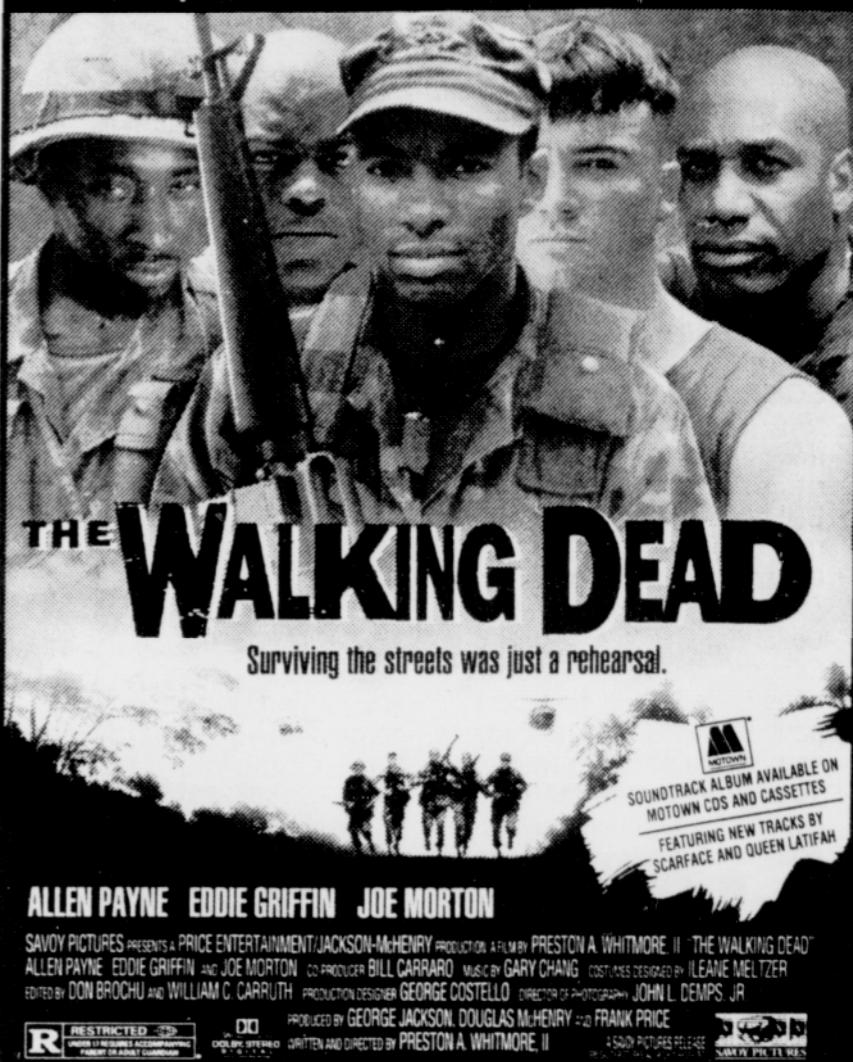
er, Lorenzo Pryor, and sing for him. When she let it go, it was unbelievable. I knew she was the one. I called up Dawn and told her I found our third member and she was thrilled at who it was. Now when we sing, write or perform together, it's just like the title of our upcoming album - a 'H.I...Naturally.'"

Quynone was born in to a very troubled family. Whereas Dawn and Shamika both had strong parental support growing up, and for their musical dream, this is far from the fact for Quynone.

"My mother is currently in prison, and I don't know who all my siblings are, although I would love to fine out," states the shy, but very proud and frank Quynone. "I was a very quiet and protected kid growing up, and protective of my little sister, whereas I felt like the mother. It was hard. I did sing back then, but only for my sister. I never let anybody else hear me I sang to her because I knew she wouldn't say anything," she laughed.

THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE BLACK EXPERIENCE IN VIETNAM.

From the producers of 'New Jack City' and 'Jason's Lyric'



### THE WALKING DEAD

Surviving the streets was just a rehearsal.

ALLEN PAYNE EDDIE GRIFFIN JOE MORTON

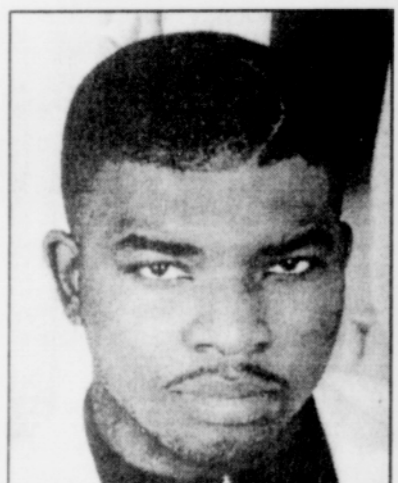
SAVOY PICTURES PRESENTS A PRICE ENTERTAINMENT/JACKSON MAHENRY PRODUCTION A FILM BY PRESTON A. WHITMORE II "THE WALKING DEAD" ALLEN PAYNE EDDIE GRIFFIN AND JOE MORTON (CO-PRODUCER BILL CARRARO MUSIC BY GARY CHANG COSTUME DESIGNER ILEANE MELTZER EDITOR DON BROOKE AND WILLIAM C. CARRUTH PRODUCTION DESIGNER GEORGE COSTELLO DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JOHN L. DENNIS, JR. PRODUCED BY GEORGE JACKSON, DOUGLAS MAHENRY AND FRANK PRICE WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY PRESTON A. WHITMORE II

STARTS FRIDAY  
 LLOYD MALL 225-5555+4601  
 MALL 205 225-5555+4602  
 TIGARD CINEMAS 225-5555+4627  
 WESTGATE 5 225-5555+4629  
 82ND AVE. CINEMAS 225-5555+4616  
 VANCOUVER PLAZA 225-5555+4611

## R&B Artist Launches Career

Chicago-based recording label Echo Records, in conjunction with producer Frayne Lewis, son of famed jazz pianist, Ramsey Lewis are pleased to announce the national release of R&B singer/songwriter Christopher Denson's, debut album, "Mr. DC Steppin' Out".

This album is sure to please with its hot mix of urban-edged ballads, as with the single "A Kiss Before I Say Goodbye." Distribution is set through MS Distributing Company.



Christopher Denson is featured in his debut album "Mr. CD Steppin' Out."

"A Kiss Before I Say Goodbye", an impassioned ode of love at evening's end, co-written by Denson, reflects an insight and genuine sensitivity for life and love, that fuels the entire Denson-Lewis project. The slick funkiness of "Nickel on the Side", the driving pump of title track "Mr. CD Steppin' Out", conspire with more sultry renderings like "Change Our Love" and "You Know it Ain't Nothin'", to make the Denson-Lewis collaboration Chicago's first R&B hit of '95.

Denson and Lewis, however, aren't resting on their musical laurels, just yet. 23 year old Christopher and 26 year old Frayne, who met while Denson was attending Chicago Academy For the Arts, have a plan.



Tyler Walker plays Mowgli in the Northwest Childrens Theatre production of Jungle Book now playing at the Northwest Service Center. For ticket information call 222-4480.

Rudyard Kipling's **Jungle Book**  
 NORTHWEST CHILDRENS THEATER and SCHOOL  
 Feb 17 - Mar 5 in the NW Service Center  
 Tickets at Fastix, or call 222-4480

Director of "Poltergeist" Star of "A Nightmare on Elm Street" Based on a short story by **TOBE HOOPER ROBERT ENGLUND STEPHEN KING**  
**THE MANGLER**  
 From the three masters of horror, the ultimate tale of terror is about to begin.  
 An ANANT SINGH Production  
 STARTS FRIDAY, MARCH 3 AT THESE THEATRES  
 82ND AVENUE, CASCADE PARK, EVERGREEN PARKWAY 7, LLOYD MALL, ROSE MOYER, WASHINGTON SQUARE

## Music Millennium 26th Anniversary

mark whitfield true blue  
 \$7.44 Cass  
 \$12.99 CD

This mix of Jazz & blues features Kenny Kirkland, Branford Marsalis, Rodney Whitaker, Jeff Watts, Nicholas Payton & the dynamic guitar playing of Mark Whitfield.

jeff lorber WEST SIDE STORIES  
 \$7.44 Cass  
 \$12.99 CD

Portlands own Jeff Lorber is back with a sequel to his last release "worth Waiting For" This release is full of keyboards including B3 oasan, acoustic piano and Wurliitzer and much more.

Jeff Lorber Live In Concert, Mar. 14th Alladdin

art PORTER UNDERCOVER  
 \$7.44 Cass  
 \$12.99 CD

This smooth Jazz release features plenty of Alto & Soprano Saxophone. Produced by Jeff Lorber & Art Porter, this recording has the power of Sexual Healing.

Christian McBride gettin' to it  
 \$7.44 Cass  
 \$12.99 CD

"The Best Jazz Bassist." This New York Newsday recording includes groupings ranging from sextet to solo and one bass trio featuring Ray Brown & Milt Hinton.

EAST PORTLAND 32ND & E. BURNSIDE 231-8926  
 NW PORTLAND 23RD & NW PORTLAND 248-0163  
**MUSIC MILLENNIUM**  
 Offer Good Through 3-21-95