

# "Last Night" Garner's Platinum



Dion, Allen, Darryl Anthony, Marc Nelson, Shawn Rivera and Kenny Terry

The members of Az Yet (Dion, Allen, Darryl Anthony, Marc Nelson, Shawn Rivera and Kenny Terry) -- the Philadelphia-born quintet responsible for the platinum-selling "Last Night," which hit number one on Billboard's R&B singles chart and was currently a top 10 "Hot 100 Single" -- learned two important lessons this past year: it pays to trust friends and sometimes you can depend on the kindness of strangers.

After several years of constantly calling LaFace Records, leaving messages and trying to get the attention of the label's co-owner Babyface, the group finally reached the celebrated producer/singer/songwriter through a circuitous

route that involved a network of friends and strangers.

The success of the group's debut single and album has garnered the quintet an NAACP Image Award nomination for "Outstanding New Artist." Az Yet also received two Soul Train Music Awards nominations for Best R&B/Soul Single, Group, Band or Duo and Best R&B/Soul or Rap New Artist.

Az Yet's intricate harmonies and the fact that they are from Philadelphia have, naturally, brought comparisons to the multi-platinum group Boyz II Men (whose biggest hit "End of the Road," was also penned and produced by Babyface).

The group says, however, they don't mind the comparisons: they

are flattered by them. "We know Boyz II Men, we were all youngsters together in Philly," says Dion. In fact, Az Yet group member Marc Nelson is a former member of Boyz II Men. He left the group to pursue a solo career just prior to their signing with Biv Ten Records.

Even today Az Yet says a great friendship exists between them and their Philadelphia brethren. "We're all friends and we're all products of the Philly musical atmosphere."

There was a whole gang of groups singing all over the city when we were growing up and we all picked up and learned from each other.

What you're hearing from us and from Boyz II Men is the Philly sound.

## Vanessa Bell Calloway in "Orleans"

Vanessa Bell Calloway, one of America's hottest actresses, returns to network television as the sharp, no nonsense attorney, Rosalee Clark in Orleans, the new one-hour ensemble drama from Paramount Network Television for CBS-TV. Orleans moves to Friday nights beginning March 28 along with "Jag" and "Nash Bridges." The series chronicles the lives of the Charbonnets, a prominent New Orleans family whose trials and tribulations have led each of the members down different paths in life. Larry Hagman stars as the honorable Judge Luther Charbonnet, who was Rosalee's mentor early in her career, the formerly professional relationship has now developed into a secret romance.

Well-known for her starring role on the critically-acclaimed 1995 CBS drama "Under One Roof," Calloway currently shares the big screen with Sylvester Stallone in the high-energy, action-packed Universal Pictures' drama "Daylight" and is remembered for her role opposite Eddie

Murphy as the "almost bride" in "Coming to America." The Los Angeles resident's impressive film resume also includes her portrayal as Denzel Washington's wife in "Crimson Tide," as well as guest-starring roles in "The Inkwell," "Number One With A Bullet" and the critically-acclaimed "What's Love Got To Do With It."

Married and a mother of two, Calloway received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with a concentration in dance from Ohio University. Audiences have gotten a taste of her dancing skills in Michael Bennett's original Broadway production of "Dreamgirls"; and the Debbie Allen-directed telefilms, "Polly Coming Home" and "Stompin at the Savoy."

In addition to maintaining a busy acting schedule and home life, Calloway feels it's important to give back to the community. For the past seven years, she and her husband have held an annual "Thanks for Giving Party" during Thanksgiving, in which they collect food and

clothing for homeless families.

Orleans is a Samoset, Inc. production in association with Paramount Network Television. The Paramount Television Group is part of the entertainment operations of Viacom Inc.

## Oprah "Survivors" Program Rescheduled for March 11th

The Oprah Winfrey show with psychologist Dr. Al Siebert giving expert commentary about survivors of tragic disasters has been rescheduled for broadcast on Tuesday, March 11th.

On the program Dr. Siebert explains why some people have a better chance of surviving disasters. The program will broadcast at 4 PM on KGW Channel 8.

Dr. Siebert, author of The Survivor Personality, makes expert observations about Beck Weathers -- who was given up for dead at the 27,000 foot level on Mt. Everest last May; Margaret Crotty -- who survived the sinking of the ferry in the South Indian Ocean by swimming for 16 hours to a distant island; Frank Lawrence -- who survived the casino fire in Puerto Rico ten years ago by jumping out a third story window; and Paul Barney -- a survivor of the Estonia boat disaster that killed almost 1000 people.

Dr. Siebert emphasizes that: -- a person's habitual way of reacting to daily challenges determines how they react in life-threatening situations.

-- most people become confused and bewildered and do not survive if no one tells them what to do to save themselves.

-- some people are more likely to survive than others if they are self-reliant and adapt quickly to new developments.

**DR. DRE THE NOTORIOUS B.I.G. ICE-T TUPAC**

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**& Rhyme & Reason**

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## Rhyme & Reason

There's not one issue that takes place in this nation that Hip-Hop hasn't addressed yet.

Hip-Hop is a way of life. It is an urban history of the struggle for freedom and dignity and against poverty and crime. It is a slang and a style, an attitude and a dream. It is a code of ethics that saves lives and changes minds. And most of all it is an expression -- raw and real -- of what is happening on the streets where the whole explosive culture was born.

It's the freedom to create what your heart feels

It touches a nerve across all racial, economic and sexual lines. It addresses issue of love and crime, family and hope, drugs and the next generation -- all of which are both specific to life on urban streets and universal to all human beings.

Hip-Hop has rarely been seen from the inside. Rhyme & Reason, a Miramax Films/Miramax Flavor release, changes all that. Three years in the making, Rhyme & Reason is a moving snap-shop of the state of contemporary Hip-Hop and the state of contemporary urban life. The film features both the artists who built the culture and the artists who are taking it forward speaking provocatively about the issues that affect their lives and our times.

--Speech, formerly of Arrested Development

Rhyme & Reason takes audiences on a fast-paced, consistently fascinating tour of Hip-Hop, past, present and future. Like rap itself, the film is a multi-layered mix of rhythms and voices -- constantly shifting between the different stories and different points-of-view that make up the ever-shifting tapestry of Hip-Hop culture.

Chuck D and KRS-ONE speak on the history of Hip-Hop Nas and Wise Intelligent reveal the run-down housing projects where they live and write. Biggie Smalls gives the straight truth about his lifestyle. Salt-N-Pepa, Lauryn Hill and Da Brat tell what it's like to be women rappers in a very male culture. Puggy Combs gives his perspective as one of a growing group of powerful African-American businessmen turning Hip-Hop into financial success. MC Eht and Ice-T speak openly



NAS (left) in Peter Spier's Rhyme & Reason.

about crime, community and the American Dream.

Dozens of the most important Hip-Hop heroes in America today -- Pharcyde, A Tribe Called Quest,

Fugees, Dr. Dre, Wu-Tang Clan, Kurtis Blow, Heavy D, Grand Master Caz, Sen Dog, Chuck D, Master P, Lost Boyz, E-40, Too-Short, Mack 10, KRS-ONE and many more.

## "GLAMOROUS, ROMANTIC FUN."

—Kenneth Turan, LOS ANGELES TIMES

(Sundance Film Festival Audience Award 1997)

"A SMART, PERCEPTIVE FILM. 'love jones' WARMED MY HEART."

—Roger Ebert, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

"'love jones' IS FRESH AND FUNNY!"

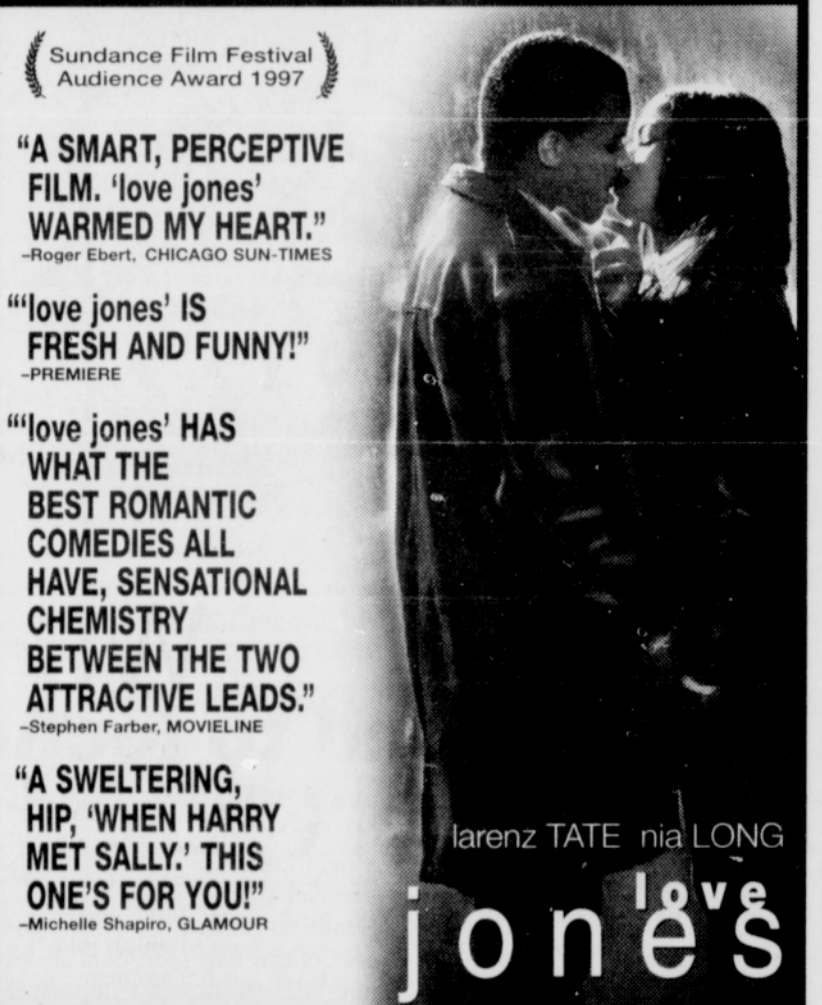
—PREMIERE

"'love jones' HAS WHAT THE BEST ROMANTIC COMEDIES ALL HAVE, SENSATIONAL CHEMISTRY BETWEEN THE TWO ATTRACTIVE LEADS."

—Stephen Farber, MOVIELINE

"A SWELTERING, HIP, 'WHEN HARRY MET SALLY.' THIS ONE'S FOR YOU!"

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