

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

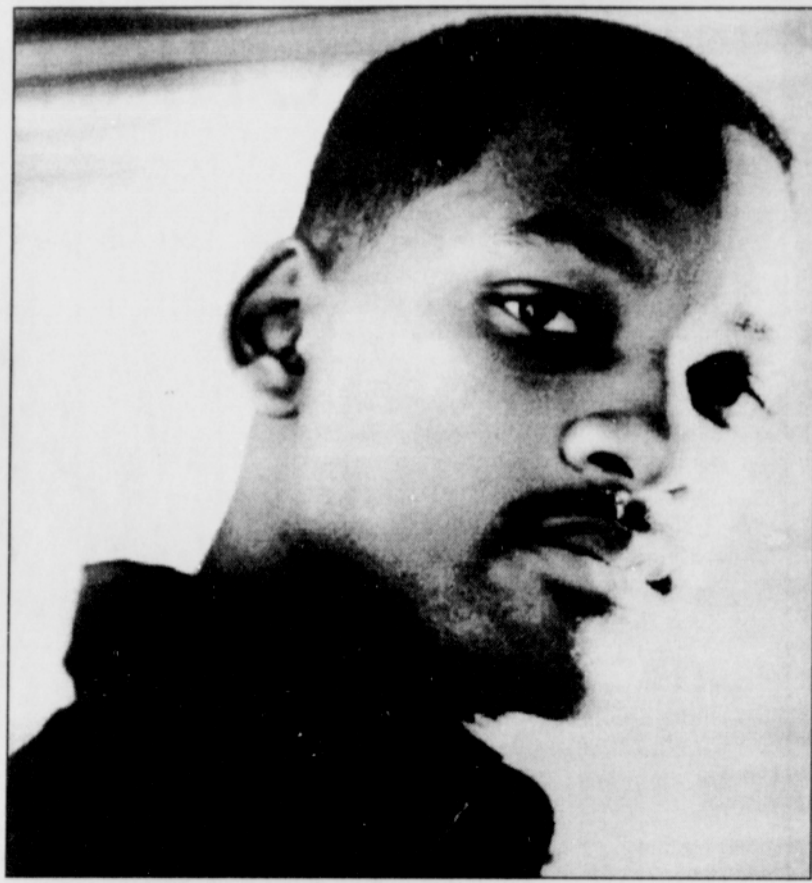
Michael Bolton



Michael Bolton's "All That Matters" In Stores November 4th R&B/Pop Flavored Collection Is Singer's First Full-Length Studio Album In Four Years

International superstar Michael Bolton has taken his patented blend of soul-stirring R&B grooves and pop melodic invention onto a whole new level with All That Matters, the Columbia Records artist's first full-length studio album or original material since 1993's RIAA triple platinum release, The One Thing (which has sold more than seven million records worldwide). Michael's new record is full of the fresh sounds, memorable hooks, and undeniable Bolton Magic that have made him, with sales of more than 45 million albums, one of the most popular entertainers in the world. All That Matters is on sale now.

Big Willie Style



Will Smith

The Artist-Formerly-Known-As-The-Fresh-Prince. Mr. Smith. Big Will. Or just plain Big Willie. None of these snazzy monikers can begin to fully describe Will Smith. A natural in an information crazed age - warm, whimsical, telegenic, charismatic -- Smith has cut a trail across and increasingly complex electronic frontier: LP, CD, MTV, NBC, CD-ROM, and DVD. He's a multimedia phenomenon with a million-dollar smirk.

But through his various incarnations - rapper, actor, box-office deity - Will Smith has constantly challenged himself. So a return to the world of music was almost expected. Consider for a moment, however, when Smith began rapping at the age twelve, hip-hop was a small part of Black counter-culture, but over the last seventeen years hip-hop has become an international commodity. Smith was troubled by the escalating violence associated with hip-hop and the tragic deaths of Tupac and Biggie. Frankly he was unsure of his role.

Sherri Jackson



Like any self-respecting songwriter of merit, Sherri Jackson doesn't want anyone to read too much into her work. Yet behind the lyrics from her luminous self-titled Hybrid Recordings debut album, one perceives a recurring theme: call it fate, call it dumb luck, but chance does seem to play a big role in many of Sherri's songs. No surprise, considering her remarkable resume. "My whole life's been that way," she says with a smile. "I ended up

in this career because of luck." Well, not entirely. After all, as her new album amply proves, Sherri is an incontestably gifted writer, a riveting performer, and a reflective thinker. That her music is already igniting radio and concert audiences across the country is a natural consequence of her determination to reach people. "I like telling stories and creating images that stick in people's heads," says Sherri. "Writing is one thing I didn't stumble into."



Although Jackie Cochran made a name for herself racing planes in the thirties, she seized her claim to fame later by becoming the first woman to break the sound barrier. Here, she poses next to her old bi-plane. The Aviators make its North American Premiere from Tuesday, December 16, through Friday, December 19, from 9-10 (ET) and from midnight-1AM (ET). Pictured: Jacqueline Cochran, 1938. Photo by Crobis Bettmann

Ships Of Slaves: The Middle Passage

The History Channel examines the brutality and business of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, Thursday, December 11 at 10pm ET/ 11pm PT.

"Ships of Slaves: the Middle Passage, a painful time in history when millions of Africans were captured and forced to cross the Atlantic in slave ships. It's a period of history that needs to be told." - Steven Spielberg

For four hundred years, millions of Africans were systematically kidnapped from their homeland and shipped to the

New World where they were sold into slavery. As the middle leg of a triangular trade route, the journey became known as the "Middle Passage."

Families were ripped apart. Villages were destroyed. Cultures were erased. Crammed into the stinking, putrid holds of slave ships, shackled in chains, stripped naked, beaten and humiliated, some 15 million Africans began a perilous sea voyage from Africa to the New World. Two of every ten captives died along the way.

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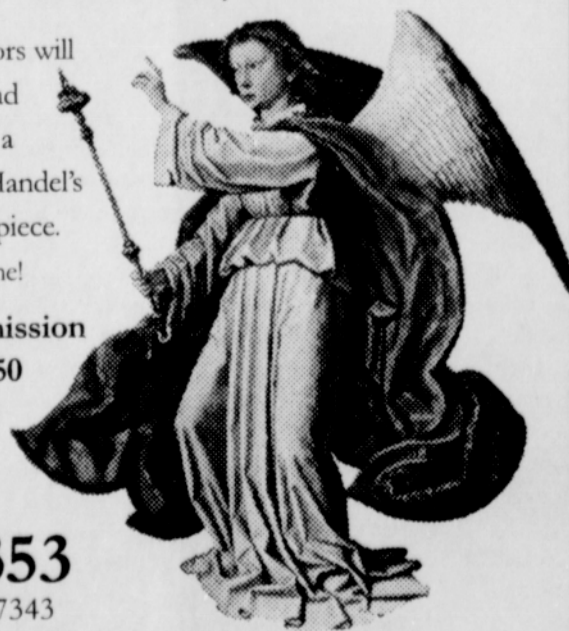
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