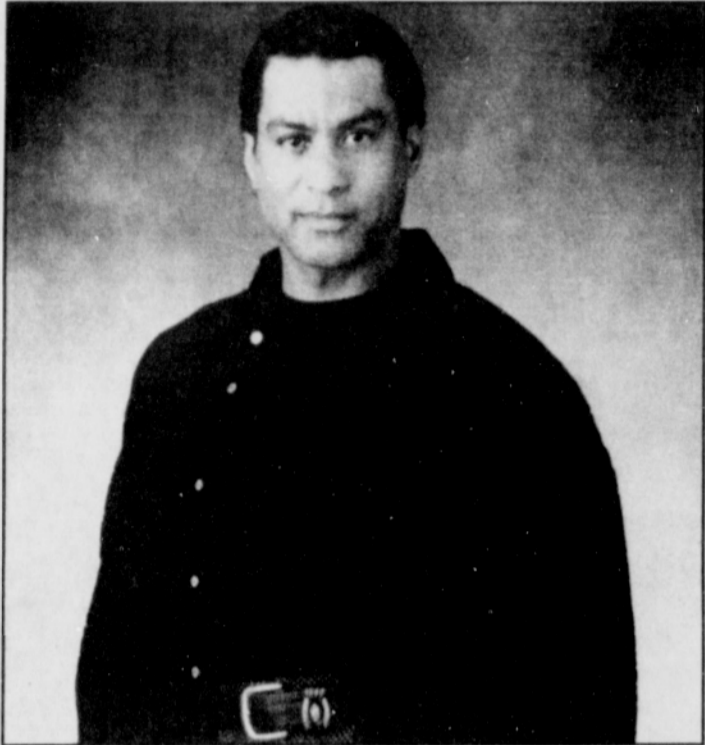


# Arts ENTERTAINMENT



## marion meadows

Rhythm and jazz soprano saxophonist Marion Meadows' four RCA recordings have made him one of the most popular and dynamic smooth jazz artists of the 1990's, but it was a chance meeting at New York's Grand Central Station in the late '80's that really started it all. Waiting for a train with a friend, Meadows-for the fun of it-pulled out his horn and began playing under the huge dome.

His sweet sound, coupled with the location's perfect acoustics, attracted the ear of fellow traveler, TV composer Jay Chattaway, who was so impressed that he hooked Meadows up with legendary keyboardist Bob James. James signed the musician to his TappanZee label, and although a subsequent album project went unreleased, the experience put Meadows on the road to becoming one of the genre's most recognizable voices.

Ten years down the road, Meadows and his well-traveled soprano are still making that sweet, funky music. Raw and streetwise one minute, sensual and romantic the next, his Discovery debut, *Pleasure*, more than lives up to its name.



## JAGGED EDGE

They say opposites attract, and, in some cases, even work well together. Like the yin-yang philosophy of Zen, opposites balance each other out, creating interesting unpredictable combinations. Such juxtapositions are musically embodied in the simultaneously raw and smooth urban R&B of the new deep soul quartet Jagged Edge.

"The name symbolizes the fact that we're rougher around the edges," states Brasco who with his twin brother Case Dinero, Wingo Dollar, and Quick form the Atlanta-based combo. "When he says 'rough around the edges,'" adds Wingo Dollar, "He's talking about us as people. When people see us, they probably don't think we sing, because we come off looking a little rough. But if you listen to the album, it's a little rough, but with a distinctly smooth side."

As the premiere male vocal act to emerge from hit-making producer/songwriter Jermaine Dupri's platinum-laden So So Def roster (the label that has already brought the '90s music generation R&B/rap sensations like Kris Kross, Xscape, and Da Brat), Jagged Edge arrive on the scene on the heels of some awfully tough acts to follow. A Jagged Era, the group's thoroughly engaging debut disc, proves that they're up to the task.

Crossing classic soul-styled melodies with rugged '90s sensibilities, A Jagged Era succeeds in bringing on a contemporary mix of meaningful grooves and some of the most truly inspired, moving vocals to grace the R&B world in years.

## MYA

### "It's All About Me"

Music Entertainment/Interscope Recording artist Mya takes a break from recording the single "Ghetto Superstar" from the upcoming soundtrack to the Halle Berry/Warren Beatty film "Bulworth." The song produced by Pras & Wyclef of The Fugees will introduce Mya as she prepares to release her debut album MYA late spring. Listen out for her current single "It's All About Me" with a guest appearance by Sisqo of the platinum act Dru Hill.



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