

Arts ENTERTAINMENT

E L U S I O N

Once upon a time in America, in two distant locales, gorgeous twin baby girls were born. San Diego was the site of the momentous birth of Marie and Michelle Harris, while Selma, Alabama was the birthplace of Tonya and Tamica Johnson. As the fates would have it, these four young princesses all possessed outstanding vocal talents, which would have their paths cross when they got a little older. And so begins the tale of RCA Records vocal quartet Elusion, whose debut album, *Think About It!!!*, promises to bring a special magic to the music arena.

Elusion adds a scintillating expressiveness and passion to their music, as demonstrated on their first single, the swaying "Reality." The song pulsates with the ladies' strong vocals and punchy delivery. "We feel that song, like the rest of the album, reflects what Elusion is really about - meaningful lyrics, tight production and giving all-the-way-live performances from the heart and soul," enthuses Tamica.

Atlanta is the kingdom where RCA's senior vice president of Black Music A&R, Kevin Evans, ventured to, and came upon this unique vocal collective, managed by Marc Hawthorne. He put "two and two together" and the four added up to magic more dynamic than Merlin's.

Elusion evolved in 1996, when Atlanta-based identical twins Tonya and Tamica coined that name for their sister act, to signify the "Optical Illusion" that they represented. The name "doubled" in meaning when they teamed up with San Diego natives Michelle and Marie. Regarding the saga of the mirror image quartet's fateful formation, Marie relates, "well, Michelle and I were in Los Angeles working with Tina Antoine, also a friend of producer John Howcott (H.O.P. Productions), who was working with Tonya and Tamica." Michelle adds, "Tina and John arranged for us to exchange photos with Tonya and Tamica, and after talking with them for hours over the phone, we knew right then that we had to be down with them." Surely, it was an unconventional way to form a group, but nevertheless, Michelle and Marie moved to Atlanta, and in with Tonya and Tamica. Now closer than quads, Elusion is a fine, fierce, foursome to be reckoned with.



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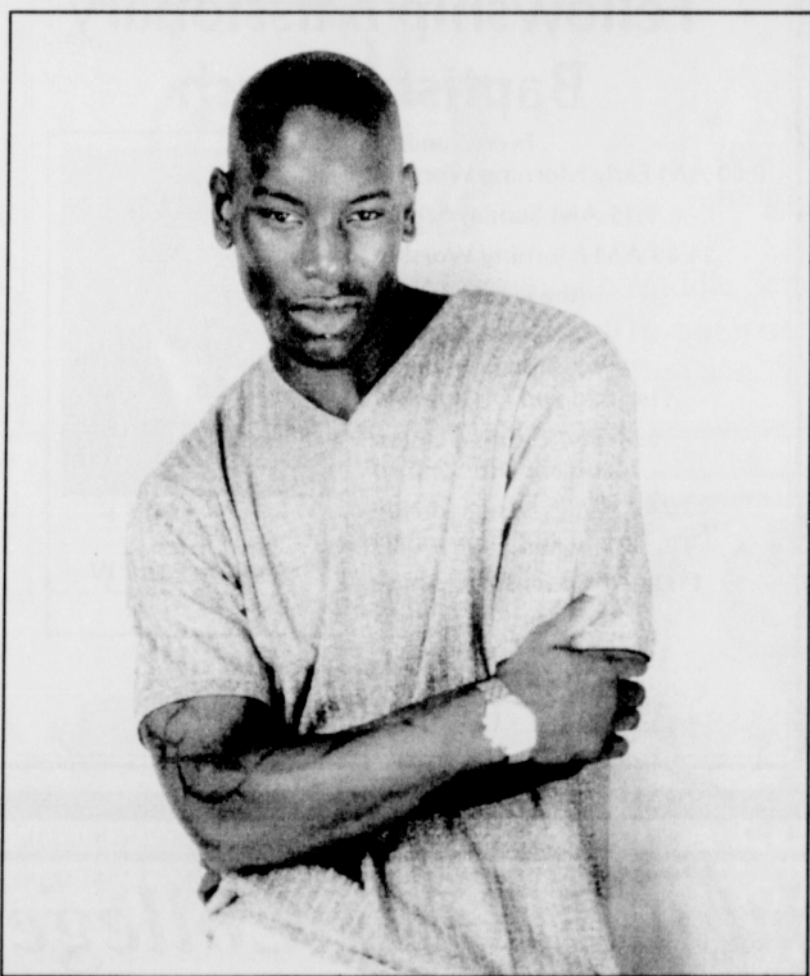
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LIVE IN CONCERT

Tyrese



Tyrese

He's the Real Thing...RCA Records vocalist Tyrese comes bubbling onto the music scene, equipped with stunning good looks, a killer voice and he's fully prepared for the release of his dynamic, self-titled debut album.

You'll place the face, as a result of Tyrese's worldwide exposure in the dramatic Coca-Cola television commercial, in which he boards a bus, wearing headphones, and sits down to sing. The time is right to add his distinctive voice to this mix. The nineteen-year-old Tyrese began his singing career at the age of 14, doing numerous local talent shows and events. Though his mass recognition began via television, music was always his first love. Having grown up in Watts, a section of South Central Los Angeles, and encountering tremendous obstacles, which would have stymied a less determined youth, Tyrese made music his escape, finding peace and serenity in it. His focus and perseverance kept him on the right track, to pursue his ultimate goal of a music career.

The anticipated result is "Tyrese," Tyrese's outstanding self-titled debut LP. The album glows with stellar tracks, which brilliantly showcase Tyrese's strong, mature-beyond-his-years vocals. It features the brilliant uptempo first single, "Nobody Else," in addition to songs of special note: The snappy, dramatic "Lately;" the soulful, breezy "Nothin' Like a Jones," "You Get Yours," which samples the Ashford and Simpson hit "Street Corner," smooth ballad "I Can't Go On."

Tyrese is a multi-faceted artist—he is also a songwriter, musician, actor and model. His writing skills are apparent on his debut album! On the thespian front, he's made guest appearances on television shows "Martin" and "Hanging with Mr. Cooper" and his modeling has him currently featured in the Tommy Hilfiger ads, both in print and on television.

The Five Fingers of Funk

Finally, the second release from The Five Fingers of Funk, the hardest working band in Oregon hip hop. In a scene where "do it yourself" is the code of operation, The Fingers have taken it a few steps further leading the pack in show attendance, regional coverage and independent sales.

The key to the appeal of The Five Fingers is their live show: A unique presentation of traditional hip hop through the use of live instruments. Not only do they have one of the Northwest's finest djs (DJ Chill Blend) but they also boast a dog-tight three piece horn section and a rapper/frontman (Pete Miser) who never lets the energy stop. All this sits on top of a rock solid rhythm section that led one local music critic to write, "if you can't get down to this you must be dead!"

With the only nine piece hip hop band in the Northwest it's no surprise that The Fingers spend more time on the road than at home. Their region has quickly stretched from the Pacific coast to the Rockies and from B.C. to the bay with sweaty sold out shows everywhere in between.

The Fingers crew includes (but is not limited to):

- Pete Miser Vocals
- Talbot Guthrie Drums
- Allan Redd Bass
- Mark Ricker Keyboards
- Todd Smith Congas/Percussion
- Ted Hille Alto Saxophone
- Curt Bieker Trombone
- Josh Prewitt Trumpet
- D.J. Chill Blend Turntables



5 Fingers of Funk

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