

Arts ENTERTAINMENT

M A X W E L L

Embrya

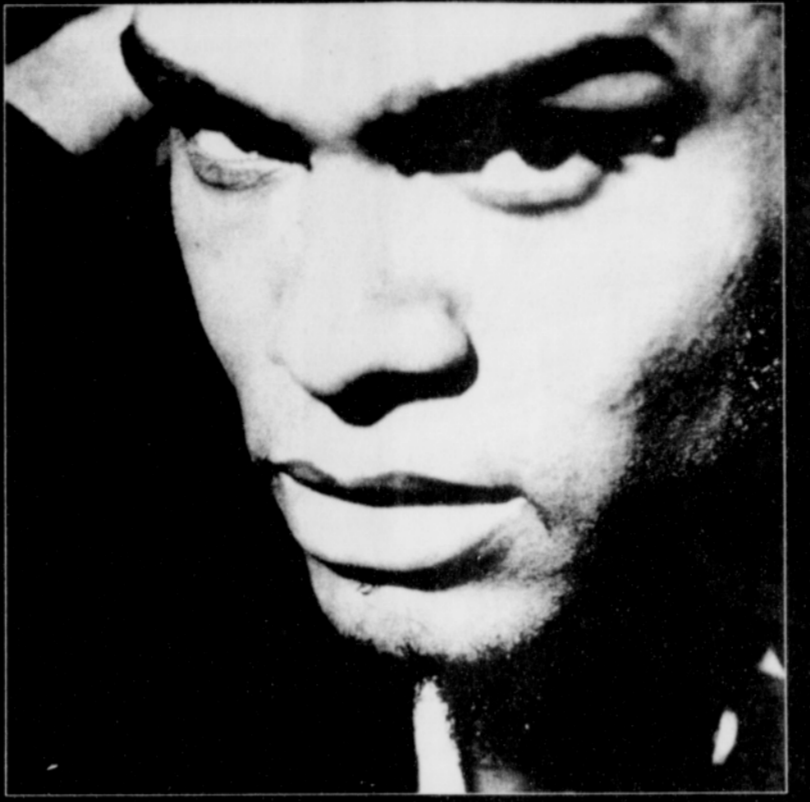
Embrya, the second studio album from Maxwell, is a recording that embodies the complexity of a remarkable artist. Stylistically connected to **Urban Hang Suite**, his debut album, **Embrya** features Maxwell's smooth, sensual vocals riding on warm keyboards and honey-eyed strings, funky bass lines and strong grooves. While firmly rooted in the timeless foundation of soulful rhythm & blues, **Embrya** also shows Maxwell looking ahead, with idealized lyrics and detailed production pointing to the future.

Maxwell, originally his middle name and now his first, is a tribute to the two namesakes (his father and godfather) who were taken from earth when he was very young. "Everything I was comes after that because everything I am now is because of them," he says. "I'm

becoming the motivation they sparked in me at an early age to reach for the things unseen." Along with this commemoration comes his undeniable female influence that embodies his every work to date.

To record this album, Maxwell started working in the studio in January 1998, having already written sketches of songs at home. As on his debut, Maxwell produced the majority of the songs, co-produced three tracks with Stuart Matthewman (who has worked with Sade and was also a collaborator on **Urban Hang Suite**), played keyboards and handled programming and horn and string arrangements.

"When I work, I'm an insomniac. I can go and go and go with just some keyboards and a mike, and everyone else is sleeping," he says. "The recording and writing process can be so draining because, in each song, I'm always trying to create those two or three special moments



that make you want to get to the next moment. But I'm at the mercy of whatever inspiration I'm under.

As for what lies next for Maxwell, he refers to the title track of the al-

bum—an experimental instrumental piece with dissonant strings and backward tape looping—as an indicator. "Embrya" is a summation of the album, and a hint of what's to come.

"Any Day Now" Finds History and Drama Intersecting in Lifetime Television's new Dramatic Series

"Birmingham is probably the most thoroughly segregated city in the United States. Its ugly record of police brutality is known in every section of the country. Its unjust treatment of Negroes in the courts is a notorious reality. There have been more unsolved bombings of Negro homes and churches in Birmingham than in any city in this nation. These are the hard, brutal, and unbelievable facts."

—Martin Luther King, Jr. (1963)

With the debut of its groundbreaking new original drama, **"Any Day Now,"** Lifetime Television takes a bold step in its programming lineup this fall. This heartfelt series, premiering Tuesday, August 18 at 9 pm ET/PT, explores the relationship between two childhood friends, Mary Elizabeth who is Caucasian and Rene who is African American, who grew up in Birmingham, Alabama during the peak of the Civil Rights movement, and are reacquainted years later as adults.

Starring Annie Potts and Lorraine Toussaint, **"Any Day Now"** focuses on the women's lives as adults in the present day, as well as their childhood experiences in the 1960's. Together, they discover that many of the same problems they encountered as children still exist today. While Potts copes with her decision to start a family as a young woman instead of pursuing a career, Toussaint deals with the challenges in taking the opposite approach. This leaves Potts to deal with her marriage and the difficulty of raising two children, while Toussaint battles social injustice in the courtroom.



(From left to right) Lorraine Toussaint and Annie Potts star and Shari Dyon Perry and Mae Middleton co-star in "Any Day Now," the all-new original one hour drama series.

"**"Any Day Now"** could not exist on any of the broadcast networks," says Potts. "Lifetime is allowing us to explore a wide range of compelling stories dealing with the issues facing women in both the past and present."

"I jumped at the opportunity to get involved in this project because it gave me the change to play such a strong woman," says Toussaint, who plays Rene Jackson, a successful attorney who returns to Alabama following her father's death. "You don't see enough African American women like this on television—Rene is a strong, professional woman; she is not the typical one dimensional character you usually see depicted in a drama se-

ries." The complex interwoven style of **"Any Day Now"** required a unique brand of storytelling.

As adults, Mary Elizabeth works on her strained relationship with her adolescent daughter, tries to send herself back to school, and pursue some of the interests she had let slide for so many years. Rene, on the other hand, has her hands full when she takes over her late father's law practice and make the transition from high-profile Washington, D.C. cases to the social injustice she encounter in Birmingham. She also works to reestablish her friendship with Mary Elizabeth and build anew life in the South.

Kerns Neighborhood Association Hosting "National Night Out" Picnic

Kerns Neighborhood Association is hosting its annual National Night Out Picnic on Tuesday, August 4, from 6-9 pm at Oregon Park (corner of NE 30th and Oregon St.). Neighborhood residents and area businesses will gather for a potluck dinner, live entertainment and a raffle.

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What happens when two of LAPD's finest, funniest and dumbest street cops Bryant and Murphy (Dave Fuentes and Conrad Brooks) team up with "sexy" Sheila (Hope Kelly) and undercover DEA agent to fight crime in a big city rock'n'roll high school when they mistakenly stumble across bad dudes! The brainless duo constantly cause pandemonium in the community, and get reprisals from Captain Cook (Vernon Wells). How they graduated from the police academy is anyone's guess. Sheila has more curves than Sunset Drive, with fists that fly faster than rockets when it comes to taming street hoods.

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