

CHEROKEE

FOCUS

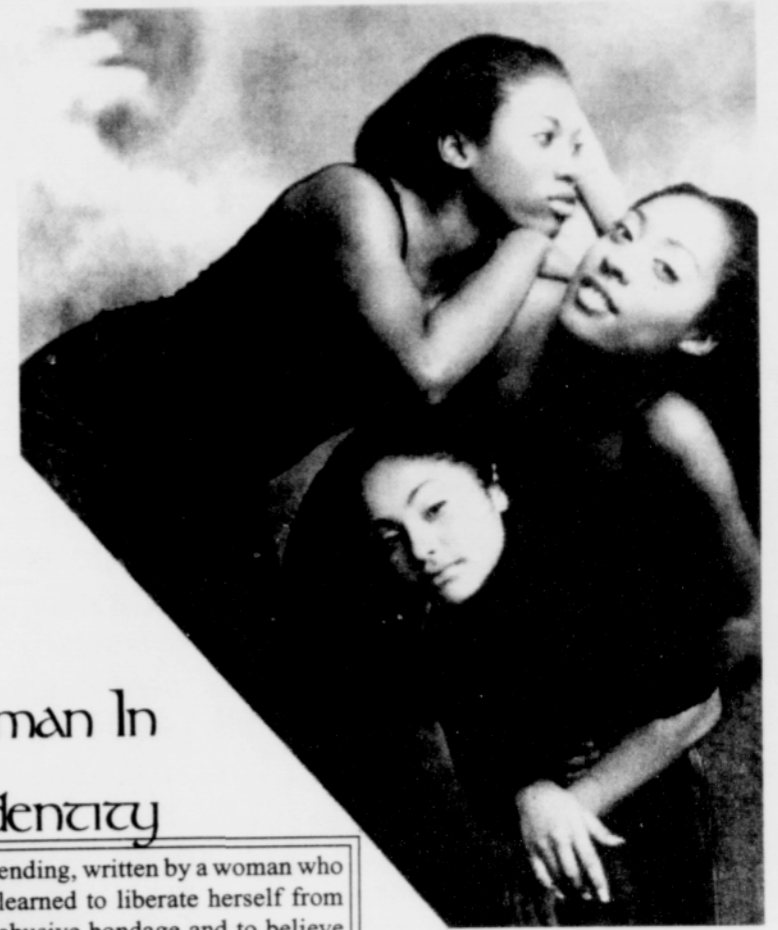
BEFORE DARK

tant past. A personal decade - long relationship that began romantically enough, but soon declined into a hell of emotional abuse and relentless control.

But this is not a bummer. To the contrary, *I Love You...Me* is a love letter to one's self, an organically soulful celebration of freedom found.

"This is an album about women and the things we deal with in relationship," says the quiet, affable Cherokee. "It wasn't meant to be a concept album. I just wrote about my life and what I was going through during a specific moment in time. It's personal, but I'm telling a story that a lot of people can relate to".

Before Dark delivers a powerful, diverse mix of sizzling R&B and blazing hip-hop flavor with their debut RCA records album release, *Daydreamin'* - featuring the aptly titled first single, "Come Correct" - for Mia (14), Arike (16) and Jeni (18) - always do! Before Dark, veterans of the business despite their young age, consistently deliver cool, contemporary beats in a youthful, yet timeless fashion. Throughout, *Daydreamin'* pulsates with golden voices, bangin' beats, serious slow jams and a plethora of passionate lyrics. Each song depicts various levels of romance, a subject about which the obviously "wise beyond



"Once upon a time, not long ago/ there lived a girl who had it goin on but didn't know/She was caught up so misbrought up/ Never thought about her happiness' cause she didn't give a"

That powerful verse is from the song "I Love You...Me," just one of the defining musical moments of *I Love You...Me*, the debut Trip/RCA album from Cherokee.

As a singer, songwriter, producer and musician, Cherokee represents that rare genre of female artist bold, avant garde, fresh and delightfully eclectic. Fittingly, the album is a concentrated dose of bohemian soul, a passionate amalgamation of R&B, hip-hop, jazz, blues and folk interpretations that speak to the heart from the heart. But, *I Love You...Me* is more than just another important debut, the 10 song set, conceptualized, written and co-produced by Cherokee is, in many ways, a prolific chronicle of the liberation of one woman's soul.

Several tracks augmenting the project - the bluesy, deviant "Steppin Stone," the sexy soul/Jazz melange "Blue Bottle Afta Shave," the anthemic "My Own Queen" (featuring the legendary Billy Preston on a purring Hammond organ) and the grooving mantra that is the title track (featuring rapper Simple E) - were inspired by a grim reality of Cherokee's not so dis-

Breaking Free The Death Of Her Brother Sends A Woman In Search Of Her Brother's Killer and Her Identity

Imagine a sensitive child, reaching into adolescence with a gangly figure, red hair, buck teeth which she had to grow into), and a stubborn streak of independence.

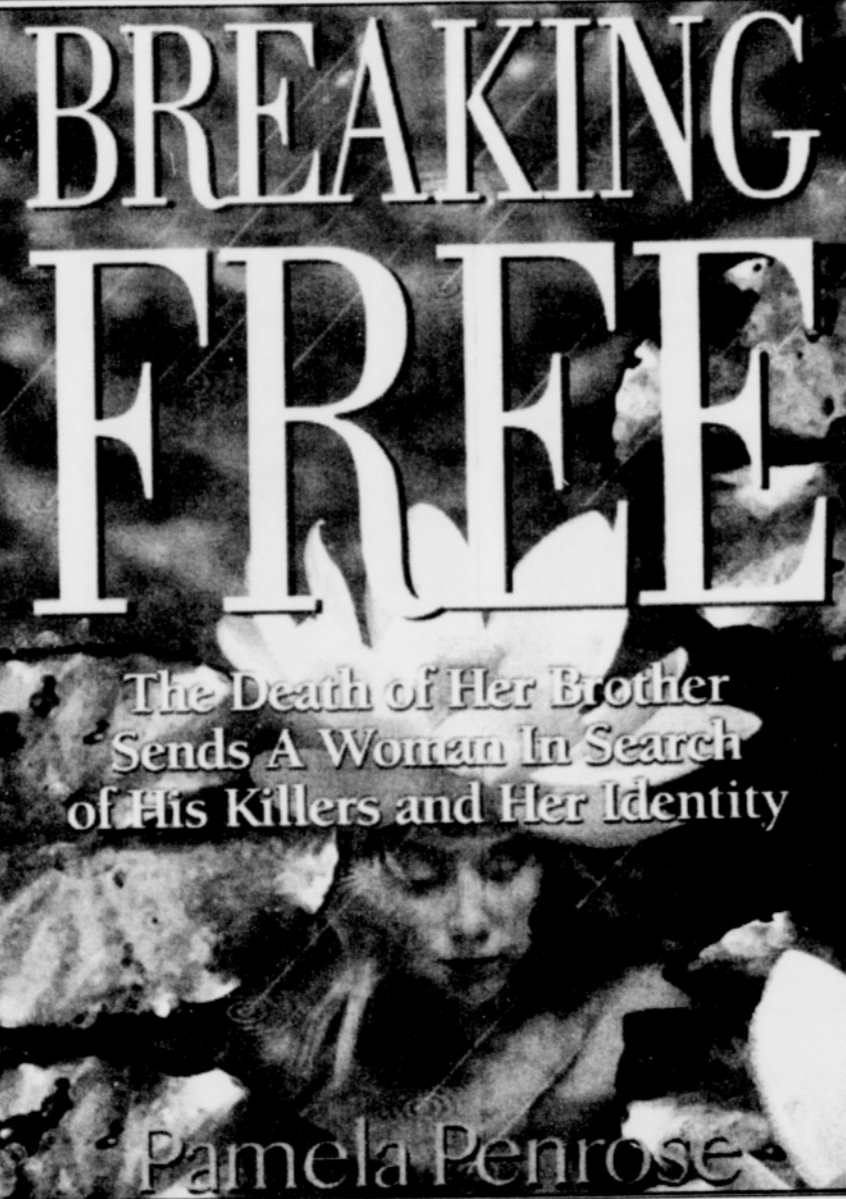
This was Pam at fifteen, a remarkable girl with a family history of ugly violence, who exchanged the brutal conflict between her mother and father for a husband who repeated the harsh abuse she had learned as a child, and which she transformed into horrifying nightmares.

For twenty years they drove her out of her bed into a sleep-walking state to roam the dark streets alone.

Menaced by a bullying husband who beat her, haunted by fears of inadequacy, yet supported by her own tough inner fibre, and the strange infrequent visits of a gentle figure in a calming vision, Pam survived the murder of her brother forecast in a vivid nightmare, the investigation of his killers and the stalking of the man who tried to silence her forever.

Then, like a dream of peace unfolding, Pam was inspired to quit her abusive husband and take heart from a whispered prayer that redirected her life.

Breaking Free is a sensitive book with a gratifying, surprise



ending, written by a woman who learned to liberate herself from abusive bondage and to believe in the person of her greater promise.

Breaking Free is both a fast-paced murder mystery and the revelations of a sturdy woman who learned to liberate herself from abusive bondage, and came to believe in the person who she was always meant to be.

Pamela Penrose is a woman of action. By taking her book on the road, stopping for book signings at major truck stop travel centers, libraries and book stores, she is sharing her story of murder investigation and personal triumph over abuse with thousands of people.

In so doing, she is fulfilling not only a promise to herself, but is reaching out to women everywhere to encourage them to break free from abuse. Pam travels widely in the Northwest teaching industrial welding. She lives in Gresham, Oregon with her children. The author will be at Barnes & Noble in Washington Square on Thursday, January 14th at 7 PM. Another opportunity to meet her is at Walden Books Store on Burnside in Gresham on January 16th, from 1-3 PM.

Her next radio interview will be on KVAN, January 21 at 4:30 PM.

their years" threesome nonetheless admits that they still have a lot to learn about. "We may be young and inexperienced in the deeper aspects of love relationships," says Arike, but we know how it feels to really care about a guy, and the happiness and pain that goes with it," "So, when we sing about all the different stages of being with someone," Jeni interjects, "it's coming from honest feeling and real emotion, but no necessarily actual experience."

Daydreamin' opens on a jazzy, harmonic high note, with the finessed female funk of the future anthem "Come Correct" Produced by the Characters (Boyz II Men, SWV, 702), this first single's punchy rhythm will set the stage for their other prime LP cuts; "Always On My Mind," a beautifully delivered R&B ballad of extreme quality and emotion, produced by Big Baby; "We want to give props to everybody who helped make our first album, one we're very happy and excited about," acknowledged Mia, the last to join the group. Like the consummate professionals, they then honed their voices, developed their fashion forward style, and the rest, as they say, is history - they were signed to RCA Records.

The Winter's Tale

Tygres Heart Shakespeare Company invites you to enjoy a night of elegance, drama, jealousy and betrayal in its upcoming production of "The Winter's Tale."

Directed by Drammy award-winning Jon Kretzu and starring Actor's Equity guest artist Michael Mendelson as Leontes, "The Winter's Tale" is the story of how one man's jealousy leads to devastating consequences. Over time, he learns that forgiveness leads to healing and a season's end offers the hope of a new beginning.

Tygres Heart production of "The Winter's Tale" is set during the turn of the century and will feature the debonair style, complete with ball gowns and tuxedos, that characterizes the time.

The play opens on Friday, January 22 and will run through Sunday, February 21 at the Dolores Winningstad Theater.

The performance times are as follows:

- 7 PM Wednesday/Thursday
- 8 PM Friday/Saturday
- 2 PM Sunday



Tygres Heart Shakespeare Company presents "The Winter's Tale," featuring Actor's Equity guest artist Michael Mendelson as "Leontes," and Maureen Porter as "Hermione."

T.J. Maxx Celebrates Black History Month All Year

Americans are showing their appreciation of Black History and culture by decorating their homes with ethnic art.

Even national television shows such as "Fraser" and "Seinfeld", featured apartments decorated with ethnic art.

This treasured art, which was once available only in Africa and at expensive museum and specialty shops, is now being purchased by mainstream Americans at the national off-price retail chain, T.J. Maxx.



Reflections Events You Are Invited Biographical Sketch Na'im Akbar, Ph.D Coming January 23, 1999

Dr. Na'im Akbar has been acclaimed by Essence Magazine as "one of the world's preeminent Psychologists and a pioneer in the development of an African-centered approach in modern psychology." a former president of the National Association of Black Psychologists, Akbar teaches in the Department of Psychology at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida, and is director of his private consulting firm, Mind Productions and Associates, Inc.

Akbar formerly served as Associate Professor at Norfolk State University and was chairman of the Morehouse College Psychology Department for three years.

A graduate of the University of Michigan, with both undergraduate and doctoral degrees in psychology, Dr. Akbar has received many honors for his progressive and landmark contributions to his specialized studies of the psychol-



ogy of the African-American. Tens of thousands of people around the world have read and been inspired by his highly readable and significant books which include: *Breaking the Chains of Psychological Slavery*, *The Community of Self*, *Visions for Black Men*. *Light from Ancient Africa* and *Natural Psychology and Human Transformation*.

**Book Signing @
2:00pm**

**Walnut Park Retail Center
446 NE Killingsworth Street
Portland OR 97211**

<http://www.users.uswest.net/~reflections>