

LIT

"What brought the four of us together in the first place was our love of music," recalls Kevin Baldes, Lit's bassist. "We were friends even before we started playing together." In addition to Baldes, the band features singer A.Jay Popoff, his brother Jeremy Popoff on guitars and drummer Allen Shellenberger. The group's lineup has remained unchanged since its inception nine years ago. Lit is a venue that has hosted innumerable shows by luminaries such as No Doubt and Korn. And while all four members of Lit grew up in Orange County, they can't be categorized with any of the area's many musical movements. "We're not really a part of any scene. We just play music that we're into, instead of worrying about what other bands are doing," Allen admitted. Added Jeremy: "We have our own warehouse in Anaheim where we practice and write songs. We just focus on Lit." Lit's influences run the gamut from Iron Maiden to Elvis Costello, from 1960's Las Vegas to 1980's MTV. Although it is the winning hybrid of styles that marks the band's musical turf, there are the incredible live performances, vintage Cadillacs, late night poker games and frequent excursions to Las Vegas that combined complete "A Place in the Sun," Lit's first release on RCA Records.

"A Place in the Sun" features a collection of memorable tracks: "My Own

Worst Enemy," chronicles a tale about waking up one morning and realizing how much you screwed up the night before; "Down" explores the special relationship between a man and his Cadillac (both of the Popoff brother own restored 1960's Cadillacs); and "Happy," which finds the band working with a full horn section. "We wanted to use horns on 'Happy,' but in more of a 1970's Chicago kind of way than the 90's ska approach," Jeremy explained. And while Lit's sound is grounded in a heavy vein, their love of pop is revealed on tracks like "Quicksand" and "Four."

The group's debut album, "Tripping the Light Fantastic," was released in April 1997 on an independent label. The album netted Lit enthusiastic reviews and strong college airplay (#1 most added CMJ, #2 most added Gavin) across America. "Tripping the Light Fantastic" will be re-released on the band's own label, Dirty Martini, and will contain an enhanced portion with a full length video and a previously unavailable track. "The first album was a lot heavier and angrier," Jeremy admitted "but we left a lot of doors open. On this record, nobody's gonna think we did a 180."

Lit signed with RCA in October 1998. "We didn't want to be a buzz band. We didn't want 10 labels to like us; we just wanted one to love us," A.Jay said. Added Jeremy: "When we met the folks at RCA we knew we had

finally found the people who believed in our music the way we do." "So fast, in fact, that Lit found themselves in the studio even before the deal was signed. The band co-produced "A Place in the Sun" with Don Gilmore (Eve 6, Pearl Jam, The Verve Pipe), and the album was mixed by Brian

Malouf (Everclear, The Verve Pipe).

Although Lit was happy to have the time and resources to make an album that represents their musical vision, they are anxious to get back out on the road. "Being on the road is what this band is all about," said Kevin. Lit sets out to make clubgoers feel like

they are at an arena rock concert. "There is more to Lit than the music alone," said Jeremy, noting the band has an attitude in sync with the 1960's Las Vegas era as personified by the Rat Pack. "Our sound is today, but our vibe is a long time ago." A.Jay adds: "We want to bring showbiz back into rock."



CHANTAY SAVAGE

There's something very special about RCA recording star Chantay Savage. Yes, she's a pretty, sexy, intelligent, extremely gifted vocalist, composer, producer, musician; but there's more. She's also a charismatic, tell it like it is sister who takes her music

seriously. Want proof? Well, Ms. Savage is back to turn the world on with her distinctive style and dynamic voice, the mesmerizing centerpiece of her new album THIS TIME.

THIS TIME is an attractive package that capitalizes on Chantay's multi-faceted artistic skills, which includes playing piano and drums. In addition to the explosive lead single "Come Around," which was produced by Keith Sweat and on which Athena Cage of Kut Kloose does background vocals, the diversified

CD's many highlights also include: "For Your Love," another extremely heartfelt ballad, wherein producer Daniel Weatherspoon paints colorful musical strokes, as Chantay lights up its solid soul canvas; "Funny Ways," a jazzy R&B jam, on which Chantay's Mary J-ish lows take charge; "If You Like," a beautiful love song, produced by Marc Kinchen and sung to perfection by Chantay; and "Pillow Talk," a torrid taste of romance, taken to the titillating limit.

Featuring the lead single "Come Around," Chantay once again rises to the true R&B occasion, elevating its musical standards and creative scope. "I'm proud of this album; it's the best one I've ever recorded, and I say that with humble gratitude to God and everyone involved with the project," she acknowledged. "I have a personal connection in one way or another with every song on this album," says Savage, who, except for "Come Around," wrote all of her album's lyrics. "I try to be vivid, honest, but also tasteful as pos-

sible when I'm writing a song," she notes. "My lyrics are rooted in reality, so people can identify with what I'm singing about; I mean, what's the point of doing what I do if I can't directly connect with my audience?"

Well worth waiting for, THIS TIME wastes no time getting to the heart of soul, opening with the K. Fingers produced "My Oh My," a funky, fine-tuned track, over which her powerful, passionate voice soars. The song

reflects Chantay's ability to boldly bridge the gap between old and new school R&B, with jazz-inspired flavor. "I grew up on the music of legends like Sarah Vaughn, Chaka Khan, Patti LaBelle, Marvin Gaye and Anita Baker," says Chantay, the daughter of a jazz musician. "My appreciation of quality music started early in my life, thanks to my mother and father," she praised. "Everything I write, sing or play is influenced by my upbringing."



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