



Sisters Trina and Tamara have paid their dues, sharing their creative talents with a number of major recording artists including Brandy, Something For The People, Deborah Cox, Aaron Hall, Heavy D., Adina Howard and their own brother Jesse Powell. Most recently, they were featured on the tune "Lay You Down" on hitmaker Jermaine Dupri's platinum album, *Life in 1472*. Now, with the release of their self-titled Columbia debut, Trina & Tamara are ready to step out and show the world what industry insiders have known for the last few years.

From the first dance-flavored first single, "What'd You Come Here For," to the haunting flavor of "Blue," Trina and Tamara deliver a fine mix of rhythmic grooves and slow jams that demonstrate both their vocal and writing skills. Take "Joanne," a no-nonsense tale of a so-called friend with a man-stealin' plan:

"That's a situation a lot of young women go through," says Trina. "We wrote some of the songs on the album from our own experiences and some from the experiences of our friends. If that happened to me? Well, most of my friends know not to even try it!"

Tamara mentions a couple of songs on the album that are "about fantasies that women have. 'Let's Go' is the story of a girl who sees a guy she finds very attractive. She's telling him she wants to go for a ride in his car," she smiles, "but what she's really saying has much more of a sexual meaning to it! Then the tune "29" (co-writer by Deborah Cox) is about a girl who's at a ballgame and sees the player with the number 29 on his shirt...and she fantasizes about getting with him."

Public recognition for the talented siblings came when Something For The People were completing their second album as

recording artists: Tamara helped write the song "My Love Is The Shhh!" which emerged as a pop and R&B smash for SFTP in 1997. The chart-topping, million-selling single also featured Trina & Tamara vocally and, aside from appearing in the popular video for the song, the duo performed extensively with SFTP once they hit the road in '97. "We spent about a year touring," says Tamara, "and it was a great experience for us. Working with Something For The People was a real opportunity for us to let the public discover us."

That discovery process inevitably extended to record executives who were impressed with the multifaceted talent of the two sisters. "We got quite a few offers," Trina says, "and we chose Columbia Records as our recording home. We started working on the album at the start of 1998, writing tunes, picking material. We wanted to create a record that was well-rounded: you know, some sexy songs, some strong ballads, something for everyone!"



Brown Sugar & Spice

By Charlene Mashia

As president and owner, I am pleased to announce the establishment of Brown Sugar & Spice Talent Management. Portland's only model and talent agency specializing in talent of all ethnic diversity! Brown Sugar & Spice Talent Magazine was established to address the growing need of advertisers, filmmakers, and other companies for talent from all ethnicities to help promote their products and services.

The response to my agency has been very favorable in the industry, as my clients have expressed their appreciation for a professional talent agency that is committed

to providing the Portland area with top-notch talent from various ethnicities. One of my agency's challenges is to insure that this is more than just lip service.

The mission of Brown Sugar & Spice Talent Management is to make opportunities in the entertainment industry - fashion, print, television, and film media - accessible to all individuals who possess the ambition, drive, passion, and self-determination for success. The key to my success is selecting talent who possess and exemplify the qualities summarized in this simple statement.

My venture toward establishing a multi-ethnic agency in Portland has

been anything but traditional. I have a solid business background having obtained my degree in accounting from the University of Portland, a Master of Taxation degree from Portland State University and received my Certified Public Accountants (CPA) license from the state of Oregon. I've held positions with the international accounting firm, Coopers & Lybrand (now Pricewaterhouse Coopers), and Fortune 500, Oregon-based companies NIKE, Inc. and Pacificorp.

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