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On Portland

Changing Faces

If Webster's dictionary defines an artist as "a skilled performer; one who professes and practices an imaginative art", then being a "recording artist" should entail those qualities in respect to musical expression. In an ideal scenario, such an adept recording artist would surrender to their true inspiration, creating sounds and melodies straight from the heart and soul, be ever-evolving and almost never predictable. Changing Faces' Cassandra Lucas and Charisse Rose have

long assumed their roles as recording artists, furthering their artistry with their long-awaited new Atlantic release, "VISIT ME," a set that manages to show and prove that their name is meant to be taken very literally.

Allowing change to occur gradually, Changing Faces begin their "VISIT ME" chapter with a familiar ring, the dreamy, compelling "That Other Woman." Written and produced by R&B star Joe, the female-specific midtempo track gives Cassandra and Charisse another song with which to express the point of view of the level-headed, strong-minded

women of today.

Consequently, Changing Faces are taking us many places. Not exactly looking to have their bills paid, they insist they can't be bought to the light shufflin' bounce of "Ain't Got Me," which features the spitfire rhymes of Queen Pen. Fast-rising vocalist Lil' Mo joins the unpredictable pair on "Last Night," super soulful Dave Hollister checks in for "I Told You," and labelmate Malik Pendleton's vocals are featured on "Out of Sight." Still, no one can deny Changing Faces' instinctive prowess when it comes to more romantic, hook-driven R&B like "Ladies Man."

And then there's the title cut, written by longtime friend, R. Kelly, who always manages to come up with the centerpiece smash selection for Charisse and Cassandra. Having known Kelly since before his career-breaking 12 Play disc, the R&B/pop superstar has since contributed what was to be a hit single for the first ("Stroke You Up") and second ("G.H.E.T.T.O.U.T.") Changing Faces LPs. This time proves no different, as "VISIT ME" revisits the feel of fan favorites like "Sensual."

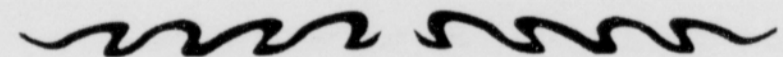
It's obvious with "VISIT ME" that Cassandra and Charisse have come a long way since first making each other's acquaintance while students at New York City's famous Music and Art high school. Through post-graduation found them pursuing separate educational opportunities (Charisse attended John



Charisse Rose (left) and Cassandra Lucas (right).

Jay College, Cassandra earned her BA degree from Hunter College), little did they know they shared a fate in music.

Like fine wine, music is not only supposed to get better with time, but not tasted a moment too soon. Hence, Changing Faces can always be counted on to take their time and come correct. Unpressured to hammer their music out at the rigorous pace of others they choose to concentrate on quality and bringing their best. That would be "VISIT ME."



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