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On Portland

SHAGGY Delivers More Powerhouse Singles With His New Album

Some people just love a challenge. Grammy-winning superstar Shaggy is one of those people. Like the #1 hit around the world with his first major label single "Oh Carolina", or the time he walked unnoticed through a crowded arena before a concert, then required an escort on the way out because of the mob of newly-won fans. Shaggy's favorite challenge, however, is one he poses to himself every time he enters the studio and draws on his limitless hit-making talent. That experience must have become routine for Shaggy while creating his new MCA album "Hot Shots". In its thirteen tracks, "Hot Shots" proves Shaggy remains a master of many styles - from reggae and dancehall to pop/R&B - making it a happy hunting ground for every kind of music fan.

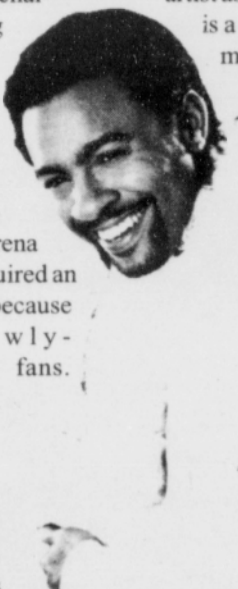
For fans accustomed to Shaggy's well-known party vibe, some of the sentiments on "Hot Shot" might come as a surprise. "Hope" (featured in the Kevin Costner film "For The Love Of The Game") is a stirring, autobiographical portrait of the

artist as a young man. "The song is a little out of character for me," says Shaggy. "It's a little deeper and more sensitive." The album also includes a new version of Shaggy's hit "Luv Me, Luv Me," originally featured on the soundtrack to "How Stella Got Her Groove Back." Though he has lived his entire adult life

in the U.S., Shaggy's roots are in Kingston, Jamaica, where he was born Orville Richard Burrell on October 22, 1968. As a kid, his friends nicknamed him "Shaggy" after the omnivorous character from the cartoon "Scooby Doo." Music was his passion, even as a boy growing up in the island nation. "Reggae isn't a radio format in Jamaica," he says. "They just play what they want, so my influences range from ska, dancehall and rock steady to soka and R&B." Leaving Jamaica at the age of 18 to join his mother in Brooklyn, NY, Shaggy soon began pursu-

ing a musical career. He got a major boost when "Mampie" and "Big Up," both hard-core Shaggy dancehall tracks, hit #1 on the New York reggae charts. After a frustrating year of trying to find more work, Shaggy finally joined the U.S. Marines in 1988. A few years later, he found himself in the Iraqi desert fighting in the Gulf War, where he acquitted himself with honor. "War is ugly," Shaggy says. "It had a big impact on me, in terms of appreciating life. When I got out I decided, 'This is it, I'm

taking my music to the height.'" Since then, he has contributed songs to several notable soundtracks, including "Speed II," "Jungle To Jungle," and of course "How Stella Got Her Groove Back." An MCA release, this soundtrack was the connection that brought Shaggy to MCA Records. "All I want to do is make classic records," says Shaggy. "The team around me is extraordinary, and we just make music all day and all night. It doesn't even feel like work. I'd rather do this than anything."



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