

Pace is Fast for Def Jam's Rihanna

Barbados beauty grows as young artist

(AP)-- Some singers take two-year breaks between albums. Rihanna is working on her third disc, just two years after releasing her first.

"It's a nonstop pace, very speedily, and Def Jam does not play, that's all I can tell you," she joked of her record label. "We just keep going and going — it's fun, we make sure that we have fun while we do it."

The hits are likely to keep coming and coming for the 19-year-old Barbados beauty, who has had success with "S.O.S.," "Unfaithful" and "Break It Off." Her new single, "Umbrella," was released last week, the first song from her upcoming, not-yet-titled album, set for release June 5.

"It shows such growth for her as an artist," said Def Jam President Shawn Carter, better known as Jay-Z. "If you listen to the lyrics to that song, you know the depth and how far she's come."

Jay-Z delivers the opening salvo on the dramatic song, about the strength of a relationship.

Rihanna said the song can be about a romantic or platonic relationship.

"'Umbrella' is a serious song, a relation-



A photo by Def Jam Records shows Rihanna, a 19-year-old Barbados beauty who has had three hits already and now has a new single 'Umbrella.'

ship song. ... It's different, and that's what I love about it," she said. "People are not going to expect a song like that from me."

The singer made her debut with island-flavored dance groove "Pon de Replay" in 2005, from her debut

album, "Music of the Sun."

"In the past, Rihanna has made really great singles. This time, Rihanna has not only made really great singles, but a great album," Reid said. "We want people to hear it now and experience it now."

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April Events

Rabbit Romp *Sponsored by DEX*
 April 7, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. A celebration of spring for all ages. Candy "egg" hunts held every 20 minutes for children ages 2-10.

Elephantastic!
 April 14-15, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. An elephant-sized celebration! Watch elephant training sessions, play games and wear your own elephant ears.

Celebrate Packy's 45th birthday on April 14!
 Birthday cake for all. Packy gets his cake at 2 p.m.

Party for the Planet
 April 22, noon-4 p.m. Celebrate Earth Day with your favorite party animals. Make your own animal mask and discover some fun things you can do to help keep our planet healthy.

Coming Events

Oregon Safe Kids Day. May 5, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
 Join the Oregon Safe Kids Coalition to kick off National Safe Kids Week, with exhibits, prizes, safety tips and hands-on activities for children and parents. More information at 503-731-4241.

Celebrating Wildflowers. *Sponsored by BLM*
 May 12, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Learn how plants in your backyard are beneficial for animals. Games, activities, crafts and advice from Master Gardeners. **Special guest - Marvel Comics' SPIDER-MAN!**

Bear Fair. May 19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Bring your teddy bears and other stuffed buddies to visit the zoo's bear exhibits. Activities include a Repair-a-Bear vet station, games, storytelling and a Teddy Bear Picnic. Check out our gift shop's selection of great bears.

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