Chicken

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## **IFDTAINMENT**

## Dreamgirls Star Puts Focus on Singing

## Jennifer Hudson is used to defying expectations

(AP) -- Two years ago, the biggest question surrounding Jennifer Hudson's career was whether she could act.

Everyone knew she could sing; after all, it was her soaring, gospel-inflected voice that made her famous during her finalist run on "American Idol" in 2004. The question was whether her considerable talent extended to acting when she was cast in the drama-filled role of Effie in the movie adaptation of the musical "Dreamgirls."

An Oscar win for best supporting actress answered that handily, and roles in the summer blockbuster "Sex and the City" and the upcoming "The Secret Lives of Bees" have only reaffirmed her newfound gift. But as Hudson puts the focus back on her singing with her self-titled debut CD, she has to answer more questions - like whether winning an Academy Award last year has made it easier or harder for her to be seen as a singer.

music than on the film side, which pated — so it's like, (sighs) 'OK!" is odd," Hudson muses. "It's like everything is expected to be big 'OK, we know this is going to be fying expectations.



Academy Award winner Jennifer Hudson has put the focus back on her singing with a self-titled debut CD.

"Harder!" she declares with a huge too.' So it's magnified, and a lot of attention on it and from wasn't allowing myself to be lim-"The pressure is more on the what I hear it's extremely antici-

But Hudson is hardly harried about the current release of "Jencoming from me and so it's like, nifer Hudson." She's used to demany branches and that's what to me this album displays, all these different sides of me."

Those sides were obscured her during acting ascent: While she had spent most of her adult life singing, once her acting career took off, she shelved her dream of making an album while making movies.

"If I'm acting I'm acting, if I'm singing I'm singing," says the Chicago native. "There's no doing both, because I don't wanna split my focus ... so one had to give way for the other."

While Hudson counts Whitney Houston among her chief influences, she was careful not to make a CD full of torch songs to showcase her powerful voice: "I didn't want to be typecast as just a big ballad singer."

While "Jennifer Hudson" does contain soaring ballads and even her devastating rendition of "And I'm Telling You I'm Not Going" from "Dreamgirls," it also features a rap verse from Ludacris, a collaboration with T-Pain, production help from Ne-Yo and Timbaland and even a duet with fellow "American Idol" alum Fantasia.

"With her, she has such an amazing voice, you can pretty much pick any song, and she can sing it," said Harvey Mason Jr., one of the songwriters and producers on the CD who also you like this side of Jennifer, let worked with Hudson on the me introduce you to another "Dreamgirls" soundtrack. "It reside," says Hudson. "I used to ally gave us a freedom to be reconsider my voice a tree with ally creative."



Beef

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Louis Armstrong said, "Jazz is music that's never played the same way once."

- · Jazz is noise
- · Jazz is music that's always different
- · Jazz is an American art form
- · Jazz is revolutionary · Jazz is the same as bebop, hip-hop
- and the blues

· Jazz is new and old

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## Free OMSI Teen Night

Industry will offer teenagers ages 13-18 a free night at the museum filled with special programming and fun activities Mansion. created just for them.

feature cheap eats, a live DJ, Segway tion to providing entertainment will able for purchase.

The Oregon Museum of Science and rides, a Science Café discussion, and the opportunity to peruse the new brainteaser-filled exhibit Mindbender

Music for the evening will be pro-OMSI's first ever Teen-Only Night will vided by DJ DMoeFunk who in addi- cost food and beverages will be avail-

teach guests how to spin and the technical secrets behind the art of DJ-ing.

"I don't believe in limits so I

ited and I wanted to show other

sides of me, and to say 'Well, if

Teen-Only Night at OMSI will be held Saturday, Oct. 18 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Adults are not permitted to attend, but OMSI will provide security and adult supervision throughout the evening.

Admission is completely free. Low





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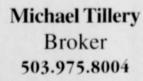
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