



Jazmine Sullivan

**Credits focus on her writing**

Jazmine Sullivan's first song was a No. 1 hit on the R&B and hip-hop charts, and her raspy voice has drawn her comparisons to Lauryn Hill. Still, the singer-songwriter was struggling for name recognition in a crowded field of music newcomers.

The Recording Academy just

made it easier for her. On Wednesday, it nominated her for five Grammys, including best new artist. Her nominations match veterans like John Mayer and Alison Krauss.

And she's only 21. "It's surreal," she said after the nominations ceremony at the Nokia Theatre. "I can't believe they actually liked the project and liked me as an artist."

Besides the best new artist nomination — which pits her

against the Jonas Brothers, U.K. songstress Adele and Duffy and country act Lady Antebellum — Sullivan's CD, "Fearless," was nominated for best contemporary R&B album. She was also nominated for best female R&B vocal for "Need U Bad," best traditional R&B vocal for "In Love With Another Man," and best R&B song for "Bust Your Windows."

Pretty good for a singer who was dropped by her first record

label. As a teenager, Sullivan was signed to Jive Records, she said. But after two years, the label scrapped her album and cut her loose.

"My story is one of perseverance — keeping yourself up and learning from your mistakes," she said. "I did all these things and I started really focusing on my writing. I did the album and now I'm nominated for five Grammys."

**Arts & ENTERTAINMENT**

**Sullivan Scores 5 Grammy Nods**



**Providence Festival of Trees**

Rose Marie Crawford, dressed as one of Santa's Elves, joined in the Providence Festival of Trees celebration, dancing on stage with the Hollywood Dance Studio, along with many other local dance troupes. Asked by Santa, "Why aren't you working at the North Pole?" she replied, "Because I'm dancing!" Hollywood Dance brings to the stage, bright and talented performers. Friday, Dec. 4, kicked off the festival with a gala evening, dinner and tree auction; followed with the public show on Saturday and Sunday for the entire family at the Oregon Convention Center. The entertainment also included choir, orchestra and other performances. (By Angela Gabriel)

**Hooked on Music, Women and Cars**

**'Cadillac Records' shines on 50s, 60s genre**

(AP)—Darnell Martin could have made an entire movie about Muddy Waters. Or Etta James. Or Chuck Berry.

Instead, the writer-director has made a movie about all of them with "Cadillac Records," cramming their complicated individual stories into the larger saga of Chicago-based Chess Records, the label that launched those stars and so many others during the 1950s and '60s.

It's all here, over and over, just as you've seen it countless times before:

the early struggle, the rise to the top (accompanied by the obligatory montage of press clippings and positions on the Billboard chart), the waste of fame and talent with various controlled substances.

Despite the glimmers of potential for typically strong work from Jeffrey Wright

as Waters, Mos Def as Berry and Adrien Brody as the label's founder, Polish emigre Leonard Chess, Martin too often gives

them too little of substance with which to work. She also shows us the racism of the time — which Chess earnestly, persistently tries to break through by bringing blues and R&B to a mass audience — with facile platitudes and hand-holding voiceover provided by Cedric the Entertainer.

As songwriter Willie Dixon, Cedric tells us things that are already obvious, things we're already seeing for ourselves: that these performers were hooked on music, women and cars (namely Cadillacs, hence the title), on the flashy lifestyle talent and stardom afforded them.



Beyonce Knowles portrays Etta James in a scene from 'Cadillac Records.'

**'Single Ladies' Hits No. 1**

Beyonce notched her fifth solo No. 1 hit on the Billboard Hot 100 singles chart on Thursday, one more than she scored as a member of Destiny's Child.

"Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)," a track from the R&B star's new solo album "I Am... Sasha Fierce," rose one place to the top, swapping places with T.I.'s "Live Your Life."

Another Beyonce song, "If I Were a Boy," held at No. 3, and another former T.I. chart-topper, "Whatever You Like," held at No. 4. Newcomer Lady GaGa's "Just Dance" featuring Colby O'Donise rose two places to No. 5.

Katy Perry's "Hot N Cold" slipped one place to No. 6, Ne-Yo's "Miss Independent" jumped two places to No. 7, Pink's "So What" was steady at No. 8, Britney Spears' "Womanizer" rose three places to No. 9, and Jason Mraz's "I'm Yours" was up three to No. 10.

Top debut honors went to Kanye West's "See You in My Nightmares" featuring Lil Wayne, which started at No. 21. The song comes from West's new album, "808s & Heartbreak," which opened at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 on Wednesday.

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