

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

BUSINESSGuide Willow Hopes to Inspire with Music

Young singer teams up with rapper Nicki Minaj

(AP) — Willow Smith is all about kid empowerment. The young singer says she's hoping to inspire listeners with her upcoming album "Knees and Elbows." "It's gonna make them feel like they have control over their lives and can do what they want to do and be the person they want to be," she said last week.

Willow is already proving that at just 11. The daughter of Will and Jada Pinkett Smith has become a buzzed-about star thanks to her hit song "Whip My Hair." She's also become a fashion trendsetter with her funky clothes; on Wednesday last week, her hair was closely cropped with big bangs in the front, and she wore a cropped jacket with decals, including the name of her album, and sequined jeans.

"I get a lot of my style from my friends," she said, also citing her aunt.



Singer Willow Smith poses for a portrait in New York. Smith, the daughter of actors Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith, is promoting the release of her latest music video "Fireball," with Nicki Minaj. (AP photo)

Willow recently teamed up with another fashionista, singer-rapper Nicki Minaj, for Willow's new song "Fireball." Willow premiered it for groups of children and their parents at the Sony Store, as well as BET's "106 & Park." Even though Minaj and Willow are cited for their style, Willow says they didn't share any fashion tips.

"We just kind of vibed off each other and had fun," she said.

"Knees and Elbows" is scheduled to be released in April. Willow said it will be "more R&B." The title ties in to her theme of inspiration: "Everybody falls down and scrapes their knees and elbows but they eventually get

back up," she said.

Willow said she and her famous family will be vacationing for the holidays. But she's not anxious about a Christmas gift.

"I have everything I need. I have my mom, my dad, my brothers, my family; I have bunch of people that I work with that are awesome, that's pretty much what I want to keep," she said.

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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

OMNIMAX: Flying Monsters
-- For audiences of all ages, OMSI's new IMAX film, Flying Monsters, takes viewers to a prehistoric world. The world's leading naturalist Sir David Attenborough sets out to uncover the truth about the giant flying reptiles whose wingspans of up to 40 feet compare to that of a modern jet plane.

Anti-Holiday Comedy -- Elf-dom gets a fresh coat of naughtiness in the third annual production of The Santaland Diaries at Portland Center Stage's Ellyn Bye Studio. Now

Afrique Bistro Benefit -- Afrique Bistro, 102 N.E. Russell St., opens

playing Tuesday through Sunday through Dec. 31. Tickets start at \$31 for general admission or \$25 for those under 30

ZooLights Illuminate the Holidays
-- The Oregon Zoo invites visitors to brighten their holiday nights with ZooLights. Sparkling lights and brilliant hues transform the zoo into a winter wonderland with entertainment each night through Jan. 1. Hours are Sunday through Thursday, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., and Friday through Saturday, 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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Santa Claus at New Miracles

Santa Claus is coming to town and all are welcome to join the holiday fun on Saturday, Dec. 17 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the new Miracles location, 4200 N.E. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Lots of food and fun for the young and old will be provided. Donations are always appreciated.

For more information, call Brenda at 503-975-6883 or Elijah at 503-309-7306.