

coverstory

BY JAY BOBBIN



Brandy, Eve, Naturi Naughton and Nadine Velazquez (from left)

Reunited singers are the 'Queens' of new ABC drama

Television is bringing another band back together ... or, more precisely, another female singing group.

Not long after Peacock's "Girls5eva" reunited former vocal partners, so does ABC's drama series "Queens," premiering Tuesday, Oct. 19. Music stars Brandy and Eve play, along with Naturi Naughton ("Power") and Nadine Velazquez ("Flight"), members of a '90s hip-hop group who try to recapture their shared former fame. Each woman walks a different path now, though, making their reunion bid shaky. Taylor Sele portrays their manager, who also handles the currently popular Lil Muffin (Pepi Sonuga).

"I think our show is about sisterhood and family," says "Queens" creator and executive producer Zahir McGhee. "You fight with your family, and these are people that have been brought back together after a long period of time. There's always going to be arguments. There's always going to be a hierarchy that exists, and shifting, but we do want to be on the friendship more than rivalry or bickering or backstabbing."

Since its main characters' fame hails from the '90s, "Queens" invokes that decade significantly. "We've lived that time," ex-"The Talk" co-host Eve reasons. "We come from that time, so it's important for us, and there definitely will be moments from those times.

When people listen to the music, when they see our outfits, when they see our hair, everything ... we want them to be transported back to that moment. It's all about the authenticity."

For Brandy, who previously had a healthy series run with the sitcom "Moesha," it's also all about getting to fulfill her major career aims. "You're born with this passion," she reflects, "and you go after the things that you dream about. I've always wanted to sing. I've always wanted to inspire people, and I just felt that that was my purpose, so I went after it. And this show 'Queens,' is such a blessing, because I get to do everything that I love to do all in one show, with amazing people. I'm just so excited. I can't even believe this is happening."

Swizz Beatz serves as executive music producer of "Queens," and his mission is to make the show's soundtrack as vital as the drama – with each of those elements enhancing the other.

"It's almost like reliving your younger life again," he maintains. "I actually was doing this in the '90s, so to come back and do it in 2021, it just feels good. It feels natural. And being that it's a show, I get to have extra fun. I don't have to be so serious with the music. We can put risky things in there and make the characters come out even more, so it's been a fun journey."

WINDSHIELD DOCTOR
FREE MOBILE SERVICE
"Give us a break, we'll fix it."
541-523-5839 Baker City • 541-963-0832 La Grande

Home & Auto go together. Like you & a good neighbor.
Some things in life just go together. Like home and auto insurance from State Farm®. And you with a good neighbor to help life go right. Save time and money. **CALL ME TODAY.**
State Farm®
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, Bloomington, IL
State Farm County Mutual Insurance Company of Texas, Dallas, TX
State Farm Fire and Casualty Company, State Farm General Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL
State Farm Florida Insurance Company, Winter Haven, FL
State Farm Lloyds, Richardson, TX
1601976

BAKER COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT
YOUR ADVENTURE AWAITS!
541.523.6419 • www.bakerlib.org • 866.297.1239
2400 Resort Street
Baker City, OR 97814
Explore the ONLINE LIBRARY at www.bakerlib.org 541.523.6419 info@bakerlib.org

Are Your Feet Ready?
We specialize in quality medical and surgical care for all types of foot and ankle problems.
GRANITE VIEW Foot & Ankle
Travis T. Hampton, D.P.M.
Foot and Ankle Surgeon
541-963-0265
888-843-9090
www.GVfoot.com
La Grande 1408 N Hall Street
Enterprise 601 Medical Parkway
Baker 3175 Pocahontas Rd.