Bold AGGRESSIVE SOUND MARKS LaToya's NEW iDENTITY

By Darryl Elwood Owens

Chances are if your name is "Jackson" and you're in the music industry, you're going to go places. The moniker is as "good as gold" (or platinum) to many record companies.

But for one Jackson — Latoya — her surname has not led to the accolades and the critical acclaim others so named (including her siblings Michael, Janet, Jermaine and Marlon and non-related Freddie) have enjoyed on the Billboard charts through the 1980's.

"I try not to look at things negatively," Jackson said "it doesn't matter what the critics say."

And Jackson is putting her lukewarm musical past behind and "only looking forward" with the release of her new album "You're Gonna Get Rocked!," her debut on RCA records, produced by Full Force, who were responsible for hits by Lisa Lisa & the Cult Jam and for putting James Brown back on the charts.

"I feel good and very excited about the new album," Jackson said ,"it's far more serious and more aggressive than anything I've done before."

And her previous musical "John Hancock" had been albums containing contrived and prosaic pop lyrics such as "Heart Don't Lie" and "Hot Potato" which made minor dents in the charts.

"The public expects a lot more from you when you're a Jackson," Jackson admits "but before I was doing material I wasn't comfortable doing," Jackson said.

But Jackson says she is seeking to establish a new identity — breaking from her previous musical mishmash and from having to use the Jackson name as a crutch.

"I'm hoping the album will help me gain my own identity," Jackson said.

And she says that identity is a warmhearted person who wants to be recognized for her own merits.

"You're Gonna Get Rocked!" is an aggressive, hip-hop and funk-infused album mastered by Full Force who add echoing vocal harmonies along with their slick production skills.

Besides the challenging title anthem, the album offers the dance cut "You Blew," and grinding ballads like "(Ain't Nobody Loves You) Like I Do" and "Tell Me."

And while Full Force was instrumental in the album's production and wrote several cuts for the disc Jackson did not sit idly by as she co-wrote four of the songs: "(Ain't Nobody Loves You) Like I Do," "(Tell Me) He Means Nothing to You at All" and "Does It Really Matter."

She was also involved in the song selection and arrangements on the album.

RCA, Jackson said, has allowed her more creative control over this album than she had in the past. She said she chose Full Force to produce the album because the hip-hop sound was ruling the airwaves and they were "the right producers for that particular sound."

LA TOYA

Over the past few years, she has emerged as a prolific songwriter. "Reggae Nights," a song penned by Jackson, was recorded by Jimmy Cliff and scorched the charts in France.

"I started writing around the house with Michael," she said.

But, this desire to get involved in music took some to emerge.

While Latoya hails from one of the most celebrated musical families in the last 30 years, she had no early interest in joining the musical legacy.

Jackson recalled sitting with her soon-to-be-famous brothers, the Jackson Five, back in Gary, Ind. when the group did not feel like rehearsing.

But, what puzzled Jackson was watching girls at concerts screaming when the quintet hit the stage. However, she was touched by the magic musical fairy one day when she and Janet joined their siblings in performance.

And that performance set the wheels in motion.

While her brother Michael derives many of his songs from dreams, Latoya says her ideas come from situations that occur to others which she experiences vicariously.

During Jackson's four-year hiatus from recording she had a hand in establishing the Mahogany Image cosmetics line, which has led to offers to create a new line.

She also designs her own stage costumes.

And even though Latoya's name has not become the household word she might have hoped, her face has become a recognizable icon courtesy of her brother Michael's videos "Say, Say, Say" and "The Way You Make Me Feel."

The fourth Jackson-penned song on "You're Gonna Get Rocked!" "Just Say No," a tune encouraging young people to remain strong in the face of peer pressure to take drugs, evolved out her role in the "Just Say No" anti-drug campaign as an international spokesperson.

But, while Latoya says she wants to do feature films to further her acting career (she has had cameo roles in television's "The Fall Guy" and other shows) she is focusing her collective energies on promoting "You're Gonna Get Rocked!" which hits the record stores November 4.

"I think you'll be hearing from Latoya," she said.

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— PEOPLE MAGAZINE, Peter Travers

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'Anything Goes' with Leslie Uggams opens at National Theatre on Nov. 23

The National Tour of Cole Porter's musical, "ANYTHING GOES," will play at the National Theatre in Washington, D.C. from November 23rd through January 14th. Leslie Uggams, Rex Smith and Rip Taylor star in this production which won the 1988 Tony Award for "Best Revival" and features one of Broadway's most illustrious and best-loved musical scores.

"ANYTHING GOES" contains some of Cole Porter's most memorable and familiar songs, including "I Get a Kick Out of You," "You're the Top," "Friendship," "It's Delovely," "Blow, Gabriel, Blow," and, of course, "Anything Goes."

The cast includes Rebecca Baxter, Gordon Connell, Julie Kurnitz, Susan Terry, Paul Ames, Kenneth Kantor, Alan Muraoka and Ronald Yamamoto.

One of the most versatile entertainers working today, Leslie Uggams has won a Tony Award, the Critics' Choice Award and an Emmy. She last appeared on Broadway in JERRY'S GIRLS and most recently toured with Mel Torme and Peter Nero in THE GREAT GERSHWIN TOUR.

Tickets are available through: TELECHARGE: 1-800-233-3123 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week);

ALL TICKETRON Outlets: The NATIONAL THEATRE Box Office at 1321 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20004. The Box Office is open Monday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday, Noon to 9 P.M.

LESLIE UGGAMS

General information 202-628-6161.

By Carl Matthews

THE COMMODORES
"Rock Solid" (Polydor)

The Tuskegee-based band who brought us the Grammy-winning "Nightshift" single in 1985 are back with their latest LP on Polydor, "Rock Solid."

The original Commodores line-up was: Walter Orange, drums and vocals; Thomas McClary, lead guitar; Ronald LaPread, bass and trumpet; Lionel Richie, sax and vocals; Milan Williams, keyboards, trombone, drums and guitar; and William King, trumpet. Today, only Orange, King and Williams remain, along with J.D. Nicholas, making the current group a quartet.

Before signing their recording contract in 1971 with Motown, the Commodores, who used to tour with the Jackson 5, were a sensation in Europe and South America. Their first single, "The Zoo," was a number one record in Brazil.

Their first American top-40 hit, released on Motown, was "Machine Gun." Since then the group has hit the charts with such memorable singles as "Slippery When Wet," "Sweet Love," "Three Times A Lady," "Flying High" and "Lady, You Bring Me Up."

In an interview, Lionel Richie told the slightly strange story of how the group got its name. Every member of the group had a suggestion for a name, but no one could agree on one name. There were arguments. Finally they came up with a solution. They took a dictionary and stuck a finger in it at a random spot. The finger landed next to the word "commodore." Of course, if the finger had landed a little higher on the page, they could have become "The Commodes," Lionel recalled.

THE COMMODORES

The distinctive funk style of the early Commodores albums is nowhere to be found on the latest album by the current line-up. Lead-sung by Walter Orange, "Grrip" and "Bump The La La," are two of the most weakest dance-oriented numbers I've ever heard by these guys; instead of the hooks, the sharp arrangements, the gutsy vocals that we've come to expect from Commodores albums, we get the same sort of dull filler Kool And The Gang and a number of other groups have been dishing out lately.

A couple of the slow numbers here, however, are worth a listen. "Thank You" is a pleasant enough ballad, but lead singer J.D. Nicholas is no Lionel Richie. Orange's vocals on the mellow "I'm Gonna Need Your Loving" are reminiscent of "Nightshift."

D.J. JAZZY JEFF AND THE FRESH PRINCE
"Girls Ain't Nothing But Trouble" (1988 Version) (Jive)

Listening to a D.J. Jazzy Jeff And The Fresh Prince record is like watching a Hanna-Barbera cartoon. You get into it, and soon, you're having too much fun to care how ridiculous or illogical the situations are, and any message or "moral" the story may have, well, they're not what you're watching the cartoon for. The Fresh Prince does offer a bit of advice in his show, but he doesn't profess to be smarter than the average bear.

Jeff and the Prince's first single to hit both the pop and black singles charts was "Parents Just Don't Understand," which follows the adventures of the Prince as he arrives at school at the beginning of the new school year and gets laughed at by the other students because of the way-out-of-date clothes his Mom bought him. Things really get wild after takes the brand new Porsche out for a spin.

On the follow-up single, "A Nightmare On My Street," the Prince is visited by the one and only Freddy K., who proceeds to make the Prince's bedsheets permanently obsolete.

Jeff and the Prince's latest single is actually a remake of an earlier recording, and it's another one of those Fresh Prince raps you won't want to take too seriously. But with a title like "Girls Ain't Nothing But Trouble," you can be sure that the Prince isn't going to have the last rap song word on the subject of relationships. I'm waiting for another answer record. Salt-N-Pepa, you listening?

The flip side of the 7-inch, "Brand New Funk," which gets its name from a line in James Brown's "My Thang," is not really brand new funk at all, with all its samples and scratching, but I had fun with it.

—All That Jazz

(Continued from Page 3)

with the **Shirley Horn** group, which takes precedence over the other bookings. Come to think of it, Steve played drums with **Gary Thomas** at ArtScape this past Summer—and he had some of those ghastly electronic drums.

Can't imagine him using them with Nat—at least, we hope not. After all, there is a time and a place for everything.

The rest of the group consists of **Vincent Herring**, alto, and **Michael Bowie**, bass. The session is BYOB as usual, with picnic baskets welcome.

Further information, 945-2266.

* * *

Had mention previously that **Larry Jeter** over at the Crazy Gumps record store in Lexington Mall, would be bringing in **Stanley Jordan** soon—and the time has come.

Stanley will be at the store from noon 'til 1 p.m. Monday, November 21. We don't expect him to play, but he will be there to meet and greet his fans—and naturally autograph copies of his latest album.

They've been doing this sort of thing at book stores for years. Glad to see music stores getting in on the act. Incidently, have heard nothing but raves about the new jazz room at the store. Will have to check it out—soon.

* * *

Don't forget the Salute to Art Tatum Saturday, Nov. 19 in the Ellington Theatre, 3500 R St., NW, Washington, DC beginning at 8 p.m. It's a part of the Charlin Jazz Society's regular presentations.

On the podium will be **Stanley Cowell**, who is classed as a virtuoso jazz pianist, who hails from Toledo, OH, also the birthplace of Tatum.

It's all a part of the Great American Masters Series, and this solo presentation will really showcase the immense talent of Cowell. Can remember seeing him this past summer at the Central Pennsylvania jazz fest — and his performance was truly outstanding.

Further information: (202)362-0858.

* * *

Sedatrius Brown is in residence at the Sphinx Club again this weekend, with performances tonight (Friday) and Saturday, beginning at 9:30 p.m.

A movement is under way to try to book her for more sessions at the club, but nothing firm has surfaced as yet. We'll stay in touch with Biddy Wood, who will have the final word on this.

* * *

Don't forget **Buck Hill** and the Sextet is playing a set at the Montpelier Jazz Series at the Montpelier Cultural Arts Center Friday, Nov. 19 at 8 p.m.

The Center is located at 12826 Laurel-Bowie Rd., in Laurel, MD. Further information, (301)953-1993.

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