

ENTERTAINMENT



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Slave, Being Successful

By Patricia Williams

Each year the American people spend millions of dollars buying records, tapes, cassettes and albums by their favorite recording artist(s), without giving any thought to all the time and hard work that goes into those recordings. It wasn't before we interviewed Slave, one of the hottest singing groups in this country, did we truly understand what it's like being in the music business.

At the time of the Slave interview, they were in the studio recording a new album. Before that they had toured the country, touching the souls of their many fans with their funky music. This sounds good. Nothing hard about that, hey?

But, along with the extensive traveling comes a tremendous amount of hard work. Slave averages about eight months on the road, constantly on the move, making appearances here and there. They sometimes work 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for eight months a year. But it's a job Slave say they all look forward to. Being together so intensely, disagreements are bound to occur. When they do, leader Mark Adams says, they "just talk it out."

They record in the Atlantic Production Studio in New York City. Here Slave spend four to six weeks, five to seven days a week, eight to twelve hours a day recording. There is no time limit, but they like to finish as soon as possible so as to get back on tour.

Slave were teenagers who had grown up together when they first got started in 1975-back in Dayton, Ohio. Their first album, *Slave*, was released February 8, 1977 and it went straight to the top, hitting the gold July 17 of that year. The success boosted morale, Mark said, and "made us work much harder, gave us new insight and was a great inspiration."

Slave cut three more albums. None of those went gold. Last year, Slave cut an album entitled *Stone Jam* which recently went gold. Asked what their future plans are, Mark replied, "To keep releasing positive music and spreading universal love." When asked if they had any advice to give to anyone who wanted to get into the music business, they said, "Go for it strong, be for real, and practice as much as possible."

There are nine members of the group — Mark L. Adams, Floyd Miller, Steve Arrington, Danny Webster, Roger Parker, Charles Carter Jr., Kevin Johnson, Sam Carter and Delbrit Taylor.

These guys seem to have something very special — a lot of energy, strength, and love which they share among themselves. Together, they try to spread it through their music.

Becoming successful in whatever one chooses to do in life is not easy. When comparing a musician's success to that of any other successful person, irrespective of specialty, a common thread is pointed out — lots of hard and time-consuming work.

Watch for Slave's 'new funk' which is to be released in August."