

Broadway Is My Beat

Tina's eternal youth secret: Psychics

By JOEY SASSO
Syndicated Columnist

Observations in covering the Night Beat:

Sultry rock queen **Tina Turner** says using psychic power to control her body is the secret of her eternal youth.

Tina, 46, a stunning, pumping, grinding force in the music world -- who can still out sing and out dance most of the teenyboppers in the business is crazy about anything spiritual.

"Psychics are my drug. I won't do anything without their advice," she says. "I get strength from the stars."

A fervent believer in reincarnation, she maintains that she once lived among the splendor of ancient Egypt. And she says that in her immediate past life she was a cabaret dancer in the rowdy gas-lit bars of Paris.

For years, one of her most trusted advisors has been top psychic Carol Dryer. The psychic told her a decade ago: "You will be among the biggest of stars."

Says Tina now: "It's like looking into the past and seeing a wonderful movie of your life that can guide you. My ultimate goal in life is to open that third eye."

There is another important reason why the slinky singing sensation has the looks and energy of a teen-ager. She is a devout Buddhist, who follows the way of Nichiren Shoshu.

"That means very clean living," she explains. "I don't drink, and I don't take drugs. I don't smoke. I

restrict my diet to lots of fish and chicken -- I don't touch red meat. And I take vitamins and herbs to keep my skin looking fresh."

Tina takes her new-found religion so seriously that she predicts that she will quit showbiz some day to teach Buddhism.

"Buddhism has changed my life," she says. "It helped me find strength and confidence in myself and make decisions -- especially when I'm under stress."

According to music world insiders, when she goes away on tour she takes a special altar with her to set up in her hotel room. The altar contains a scroll with chants inscribed on it ...

The script for the sequel to "Beverly Hills Cop" has been completed and, according to high level Paramount sources, has all the makings of another major winner for **Eddie Murphy**. However, it will be a while -- a long while -- before Murphy goes into action with the caper. He's tentatively set to start Paramount's "Golden Child" in January, will follow that with "Butterscotch," and after that "Cop II" -- unless it turns out there's something else he'd rather do. With Murphy, you don't count on something happening until it actually does....

Mirage Records, distributed in North America by Atlantic/Atco Records, has signed the **Spinners** to a long-term recording contract. The announcement was made this week by Mirage President **Jerry Greenberg**, who also reported that

the Spinners are currently at work in their first album for the label. Due for release in October, the LP will be preceded by a single release in September.

Outside of North America, Spinners' records will continue to be released on the Atlantic label. In making the announcement, **Jerry Greenberg** commented: "It is with great personal pleasure that I welcome the Spinners to Mirage. Our association goes back 13 years, when the group first joined the Atlantic Records family. The Spinners have always made timeless magic that transcends fads and trends, an unmistakable sound that never loses its universal appeal. We are looking forward to their first Mirage release, which is shaping up as some of their best music ever..."

Dionne Warwick is back on the road again -- with a limp and a lisp. The soul singer reveals she had part of a hipbone transplanted to her jaw to correct gum problems. But she says she has no plans to alter her new sound....

Pop Superstar **Michael Jackson** has a weird obsession with freaks -- and once asked to be smuggled into a museum so he could view the remains of the horribly deformed **Elephant Man**. During a visit to England, Jackson was hustled into the London Hospital Museum with a coat over his head to see the skeleton of the famous 19th century freak, the subject of a movie a few years ago....

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Magazines

It's the year of LaBelle, says Essence

This is Patti LaBelle's year -- her spine-chilling performance on Broadway, the NBC "Motown Returns to the Apollo" show, CBS-Kraft's "Salute to the Ford Theatre" and chart-busting singles "New Attitude" and "Stir It Up" have assured that.

The Philadelphia resident, who appears on the cover of the October issue of *Essence*, was interviewed by contributing editor Vertamae Smart-Grosvenor. Patti is known for never hesitating to give her all when performing before an audience -- from her outrageous "art deco" hair to her long, white-painted fingernails.

"If you think I'm too outrageous for you, tell me, and then I won't come," says Patti. "You have to accept me the way I give me to you. If people say I'm too much, I'm overkill, I love it. I don't ever want to be just enough. I wanna give you more, and then if you say, 'Patti, that's enough,' I can cut back."

The "High Priestess of Soul," **Nina Simone**, back in the United States after a 15-year self-

imposed exile in Africa and Europe, is also sporting a new attitude these days. The virtuoso pianist, composer and vocalist told *Essence* editor-at-large Alexis De Veaux that she left Europe after tiring of the racist and sexist American music scene and the "quality of life here and the pace."

Simone is best known for her renditions of "Sunday in Savannah," "The Backlash Blues" and "To Be Young, Gifted and Black." Still an admitted revolutionary artist, Nina says that politics and social commentary no longer determine her music.

"At this point in time, my music is chosen because I want to make a hit record," she says. "That's entirely different from the way I chose it before. When Martin Luther King was alive, for example, we did songs that commemorated his life. But since he's gone, and I have to take care of me now, I'm just trying to get a hit record any way I can. And it doesn't have anything to do with what's going on in this country. It has to do with what would be best for Nina Simone."



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Dennis Edwards headlines fair entertainment

Dennis Edwards, a former member of the Temptations, will headline the musical entertainment at this year's Dixie Classic Fair. Edwards is scheduled to sing on Wednesday, Oct. 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the grandstand.

Other musical guests joining Edwards will be **Ronnie McDowell**, **John Conlee**, **Reba McEntire** and **Gene Watson**. No separate fee for the concert will be charged. General admission to the fair guarantees tickets for the grandstand shows.

For more than a decade, Edwards augmented the Temptations, one of the most influential vocal groups in the history of pop music. Now, "Don't Look Any Further," Edwards' long-awaited solo debut, stands to create a whole new career for an artist who possesses one of the most distinctive voices in popular R&B.

"This album is a big move for me and something I've looked forward to for a long time," says Edwards. "After you've been a part of

something like the Temptations, the only thing left is doing it on your own."

Plowing new musical ground is nothing for Edwards, an only child born in Birmingham, Ala., before his family moved to Detroit seven years later. After all, to many, the vocalist was treading sacred territory that night at New York's **Copa** in 1968, when, as the Temptations' first replacement ever, he stepped after the exit of **David Ruffin**. Edwards and the Temptations went on to record some 30 memorable albums, 14 of which have gone gold and platinum.

However, even Edwards' induction into the group was only the formal tapping of a talent that began performing in church at the age of 2, studied piano and composition at the Detroit Music Conservatory during high school years, and who fronted local gospel groups like the **Crowns of Joy**.

After a stint in the Army during the Berlin crisis, Edwards formed

his own Detroit-based group, **Dennis Edwards and the Firebirds**. His running buddies during the period were vocalist **Phillipe Wynn** and **G.C. Cameron** (who would both go on to sing with the Spinners). Eventually, the late **James Jameson**, Motown's bassist extraordinaire, invited Edwards to audition for Motown as a solo act, but he ended up doing time with the **Contours**, another Motown vocal group, before joining the Temptations.

"I'm proud of the album," Edwards says of his solo venture. "I went into the studio with my producer, **Dennis Lambert**, with the hopes of coming out with something special, and I think we accomplished that. The next one will be even better."

With that in mind, Edwards is taking special consideration in blueprinting this second career phase.

"I learned a lot about show business and life in general," he says. "I would like my solo thing to go as far as it can, and I look forward to the challenge."



At The Lounge

Covacius will appear Sunday, Sept. 29, at High Point Park in High Point. The band will then appear at Winston-Salem's premiere entertainment establishment, the **Black Velvet Lounge**, at 8 p.m.