

New Edition prepares to tour

Continued from 4B

"We've always believed that things happen in a sense when they're supposed to happen." The goal of reuniting was never far from their minds, partly because of their philosophy that the group is sort of a nest from which they may fly the coup, but eventually return back home - hence the title of the album, "Home Again."

"Overall, I think our No. 1 priority is keeping the mother-ship going," said Gill. "Because, this is where it all started, and we definitely have

a love for that and realize if it wasn't for New Edition - the mothership - there's no telling where our careers might be." Although the focus of the album was obviously New Edition, the men tried to incorporate some of the characteristics of the solo acts while staying true to the musical thrust of the group. The result is a smooth collection of R and B tunes with a touch of hip-hop flavor.

"We kind of blended all of the different talents of this group a lot more than we utilized all the different talents on any

album before this," Tresvant said. The group used producers Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis once again for the disc, but also called on some of the younger hit-makers, such as Sean "Puffy" Combs and Jermaine Dupri, to update the group's groove, not necessarily to create a new "sound."

"I don't think you can really even pinpoint a New Edition sound," Gill said. "I think when you listen to this album what you're going to get is the fact that we've lived more, we've learned more and just

experienced more." Although the group just kicked off its tour in its hometown of Boston, New Edition's status after that is unclear. The group wants MCA, the record label for the group and all members except Gill, to give them a contract that would allow them to continue recording together, but also keep their solo careers intact.

"I think our intentions are to basically be able to do both and I think we want to try and figure out a way to balance it out," said Gill.

Hollywood makes heroes out of aliens

By Lynn Elber
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES - Aliens and tornadoes were Hollywood's heroes in 1996 as "Independence Day" and "Twister" conquered duds like "The Cable Guy" and "Striptease" to lead the film industry to a record \$5.8 billion year.

Megahits were the key, with 12 films breaking the \$100 million mark in North American ticket sales, industry observers said. "The momentum created by these blockbusters set the pace for the year," said Paul Dergarabedian of Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc., which tracks movie receipts.

The number of tickets sold also rose, reversing 1995's slight decline. "It's been a tremendous year for the industry, even with the Olympics biting into the late-summer box office," Dergarabedian said. "It's unprecedented to have this many films over \$100 million already."

Other movies opening late in the year could go on to join the \$100-million club, making 1996 a record year for blockbusters. Right now, it shares the honor with 1994, but those dozen films include late-openers that year.

1996's projected \$5.8 billion take represents an 8 percent increase over last year. "This is the fifth consecutive year of improved box office," said A.D. Murphy, who watches the financial end of the picture business for The Hollywood Reporter trade paper. "The last short-term low was 1991."

Industry history indicates a "stumble" is inevitable, but the old pattern of three years up, one down seems to have been broken, Murphy said. Attendance for 1996, based

on a \$4.40 average ticket price calculated by Exhibitor Relations, is projected to be 1.33 billion. In 1995, 1.25 billion tickets were sold, down from 1994's 1.29 billion. The average ticket was figured by including prices for children's admissions, discount theaters and bargain matinees. In most major cities, adult tickets are \$6 or more for evening shows.

Raking in the biggest pot, as of Dec. 23, was the alien-invasion drama "Independence Day" with \$306.1 million - making it the sixth-highest grossing film domestically of all time.

It takes its place behind "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial," "Jurassic Park," "Forrest Gump," "Star Wars" and "The Lion King."

"Twister" was second for 1996 with a domestic take of \$241.7 million, followed by "Mission: Impossible" at \$180.9 million. Those films are 12th and 28th on the all-time top receipts list, respectively.

Other 1996 top grossers were "The Rock" (\$134.1 million); "The Nutty Professor" (\$128.8 million); "The Birdcage" (\$124 million); "Ransom" (\$120.3 million); "A Time to Kill" (\$108.7 million); "Phenomenon" (\$104.4 million); "The First Wives Club" (\$102.1 million); "Eraser" (\$101.3 million) and Disney's animated "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," just edging the \$100-million mark as of Dec. 23.

Although Jim Carrey's "The Cable Guy" grossed \$60.2 million, the movie needed bigger returns to justify the star's \$20 million paycheck and costly promotional campaign.

For Hollywood, domestic box-office receipts are far from the whole story: Of all movie tickets sold, just over half are purchased in the United States and Canada.

Action hits like "Independence Day" take advantage of foreign markets, with the Twentieth Century Fox release adding more than \$427 million to its domestic grosses.

(With a worldwide total of

\$733 million, the movie joins the list of top international grossers, in third place behind "Jurassic Park" at \$915 million and "The Lion King" at \$755 million.)

Less stellar films also can find happiness abroad.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY! 376-0496

Great Music... Something for Everyone

CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY

PETER MCCOPPIN, MUSIC DIRECTOR

NEW! MOSTLY MOZART

Peter McCoppin conducting Joshua Hood, bassoon

A wonderful program of all Mozart with the Charlotte Symphony playing some of the world's most famous and best-loved works of classical music. Enjoy this charming, intimate concert at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church.

Thurs Jan 9 7:30pm

Friendship Missionary Baptist

\$10 all seats

MOZART The Magic Flute Overture
MOZART Bassoon Concerto
MOZART Symphony No. 41 "Jupiter"

CLASSICAL 89.9 WDAV

CALL NOW! Or visit CSO Box Office, CityFair 2nd fl. M-F 10-5 pm Or PAC Box Office 372-1000 www.charlottesymphony.org

SymphonyCharge (704) 332-6136

FOOD LION A New Year of Savings With Extra Low Prices...And More!

Buy One, Get One FREE!

5 Lb. Bag **Florida Red Grapefruit**

4 Lb. Bag **Florida Oranges** Reg. \$2.29

Mix Or Match

Golden Ripe **Chiquita Bananas** 2 Lbs. / 88¢

6 Roll **Sparkle Paper Towels** 2/\$7 Reg. \$4.19 Ea.

85 Load **Tide Ultra 2 Detergent** \$10.39 Price Before MVP Discount \$12.99

Special 12 Oz. **Kellogg's Special K Cereal** \$2.19 Reg. \$2.85

8.45 Oz./10 Pack Select Varieties **Hi-C Coolers** 2/\$4 Reg. 2/\$5

64 Oz. Ruby Red **Ocean Spray Grapefruit Juice** 2/\$4 Regular \$2.69 Each

2 Liter **.99¢** Diet Coke, CF Diet Coke, Sprite, Coke Classic, Diet Sprite

Boneless **Beef Chuck Roast** \$1.49 Lb. Reg. \$2.49

Value Pack 3 Lbs. Or More **Beef Chuck Or Shoulder Steak** 1.79 Lb. (Reg. \$2.69)

Value Pack Boneless **Pork Sirloin Chops Or Roasts** 1.99 Lb. (Reg. \$2.99)

Jumbo Pack **Boneless Skinless Chicken Breast** 2.69 Lb. (Reg. \$3.99)

Your Choice **Medium Raw Shrimp, Grouper Or Swordfish** 5.99 Lb. (Reg. \$7.99)

Deli-Bakery Use Our Convenient Deli Checkout!

Fresh Baked **Italian Bread** 88¢ Bag Reg. 99¢

Delicious **Chopped Ham** \$1.99 1 Lb. Reg. \$2.99

Carrot Cake 5.99 Ea.

Vanilla Creme Horns 4 Ct. 1.89

Save Even More With These MVP ITEMS!

6 Ct. Non Drowsy Or Maxlum Nighttime **Thera Flu** \$3.19 With \$50 Purchase Extra Low Price Before MVP Discount \$3.99

30-35 Oz. Select Varieties Microwave **Orville Redenbacher Popcorn** \$3.49 With \$50 Purchase Extra Low Price Before MVP Discount \$4.36

18 Oz. Canister Reg./Quick **Quaker Oatmeal** 79¢ With \$50 Purchase Reg. \$1.53 Extra Low Price Before MVP Discount 99¢

1.4-1.6 Oz. Select Varieties **Hershey's Candy Bars** 2/\$7.99 With \$50 Purchase Extra Low Price Before MVP Discount 2/99¢

Save Up To 20%

Most Stores OPEN 24 HOURS

Prices in this ad good Wed., Jan. 1 thru Tues., Jan. 7, 1997. We reserve the right to limit quantities.

All Stores Accept DISCOVER NOVUS VISA MasterCard ATM CARDS

NORTH CAROLINA **Blumenthal Performing Arts Center**

Having Our Say

The Delany Sisters' First 100 Years

"Their story is our story and it's all true. 'Having our Say' is a national treasure. Don't miss it!" -Joel Siegel, ABC-TV

Sponsored by 1110WBTV 99.3WBTV

www.performingartsctr.org

DIRECT FROM BROADWAY! TONY® NOMINATED FOR BEST PLAY!

Two sisters from Raleigh, North Carolina share their remarkable story as they celebrate life, family and friendship.

NEXT SUNDAY! TWO SHOWS ONLY! JANUARY 12 AT 2PM & 7PM

Belk Theater~Tickets: \$12-\$34

(704) 372-1000 Box Office (704) 522-6500