

'Scream Tour' returns with blast for fourth installment

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Ginuwine, Usher, Fantasia, Bow Wow and Joe. Describing them as "the group that fills a void in the music industry," Sean "Diddy" Combs and his

team pulled out all the stops when it came to B5. Combs hooked them up with some of the top producers in the business, among them Rodney Jerkins (Michael Jackson, Brandy, Whitney Houston),

Ryan Leslie (Britney Spears, Carl Thomas), Sean Garrett (Usher, Ciara), Corna Boyz (Jagged Edge), Veit Renn (Backstreet Boys), and Diddy himself.

The resulting album "B5"

was released on July 19. Their website, B5online.com, received more than 10 million hits just during the month of June and a chat with B5 on Teenmusic.com, one of the top teen website, crashed when

more than 10,000 fans tried to log on at once. The site received more than 5,000 questions for B5 before crashing.

Want to go:
What: Scream IV Tour, The

Heartthrobs.
When: Sept. 1 at 7 p.m.
Where: Cricket Arena, E. Independence Boulevard
Cost: \$34.50-\$37.50
Tickets available through Ticketmaster.

Blumenthal lines up season of diversity and versatility

Chanteuse Lizz Wright will show her musical versatility at the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center on Sept. 17.



PHOTO/BILL PHELPS

Continued from page 1D to look forward to that have wowed audiences across North America," said Tom Gabbard, president of the Blumenthal. "With the demise of Charlotte Repertory Theatre, we thought it was important to step forward and assure that exciting professional theater continues to be part of Charlotte's cultural scene."

There will be plenty of music and dance talent too, including:

- The Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, which will debut April 4-5, 2006. The national tour will bring some of the company's most memorable pieces, such as "Revelations."

- Lizz Wright, a versatile chanteuse who can sing jazz to blues to pop will perform Sept. 17.

- Hip hop dance takes to the stage Nov. 18-19 with the Rennie Harris Puremove-

ment dance company under the direction of choreographer Rennie Harris make stories come alive.

R&B and gospel star CeCe Winans will wow the crowd Feb. 12, 2006 with some of her greatest hits.

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Porter stands tall 'At The Corner'



Billy Porter
At The Corner
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Billy Porter knocked folks out in the late '90s with "Love Is On The Way" from "The First Wives Club" soundtrack. That song soared with power and finesse, something many singers of the day didn't have.

But Porter's debut CD "Untitled" didn't cause much

of a stir. It was quite good, but didn't have a place on radio. He did a guest spot on a Jim Brickman CD, then disappeared.

Porter's back with a nearly-great CD that will also find little airplay. Satellite radio may give it a run, but a CD of Broadway show tunes, lite R&B and gospel is doomed to landlocked radio.

Too bad. Porter is in fine voice most of the time. There are a few rough spots from time to time, but I get the feeling he wanted it to sound just like a CD recorded in a club - Joe's Pub in New York, to be exact.

Porter has a warm tenor that's not quite as elastic as it once was, but it's still a potent instrument. He's most effec-

tive on the show tunes like "Last Midnight" from "Into The Woods" and "King Of The World" from "Songs For A New World." His gospel roots are not to be ignored, though. "Why We Sing," and "Use Me" are certainly well done.

But Porter shines brightest when he uses both genres. His version of Smokie Norful's "I Need You Now" is inspiring, but it's the juxtapositioning with Stephen Sondheim's "Sunday" from "Sunday In The Park With George" that makes the experience spectacular.

Porter's latest effort is certainly worthy of any play it gets. He's still an exciting vocalist who certainly put his all into this material. Maybe the second time will be the charm.

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The NAACP Ashanti Awards will be held September 10th, @ The Westin Hotel, starting at 6:00 PM with a silent auction and with the banquet following the auction. The NAACP recognize Community leaders, unsung heroes, outstanding leader of the year, scholarship recipients, corporation of the year and induct members who have dedicated their lives to the civil rights struggle into the NAACP Hall of Fame. For more information please call 704-549-9555.

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