

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Music from "The Best Man" is Best Bet



Photo courtesy of Columbia/Sony Music

### The Best MAN

MUSIC FROM THE MOTION PICTURE

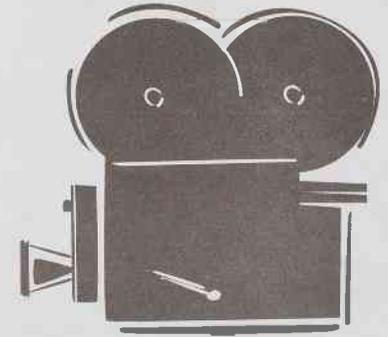
MAXWELL  
LAURYN HILL  
AND BOB MARLEY  
THE ROOTS feat. JAGUAR  
BEYONCÉ  
AND MARC NELSON  
GINUWINE, R.L.,  
TYRESE, CASE  
FAITH EVANS  
ERIC BENET  
LATOCHA SCOTT  
KENNY LATTIMORE  
SPORTY THIEVZ  
SIGNATURE  
ALLURE  
ME'SHELL NDEGE'CELLO



it hurts.

Without a doubt though, the crown jewel of the soundtrack is the duet featuring Lauryn Hill and the late Bob Marley—"Turn Your Lights Down Low." Marley's classic Reggae track gets reinvented by his son Stephen Marley into a beautiful updated version that gets blessed by the accompaniment of the seemingly untouchable Lauryn Hill. Ms. Hill displays her singing ability while trading verses with Marley, but then she takes the song to another level by reciting one of rap music's most heartfelt verses ever recorded.

"The Best Man" soundtrack is full of hits, but there are also a few misses strategically placed throughout the collection. Sygnature's vocals shine on "Wherever You Go," but the lyrics and melody are only mediocre. The same is true for Latocha Scott on "Liar, Liar," and unless you just caught your man cheating or think all men are dogs, the song has little appeal. Allure's seductive "When the Shades Go Down" would be 100 percent better



without the bridge, and She'kspere's extravagant stutter-step beat (think Timbaland throwaway) on Faith Evans' "Best Man" seems almost unpatterned and greatly detracts from the song.

Though there are some flaws in the soundtrack, "The Best Man" soundtrack is overwhelmingly pleasing, and at its best is a reaffirmation that high quality, mid-tempo Rhythm and Blues continues to be produced. Hopefully this soundtrack will serve as a springboard for a resurgence of first-rate R&B, but for now, just go get a copy and enjoy it.

By Michael Fournier  
A & E Editor

The names of the almighty dollar, music and motion pictures have been forced to join together throughout the 1990's, the idea is good, but usually, either the film or the soundtrack is trash, and most of the time the songs have absolutely nothing to do with the movie.

However, "The Best Man" soundtrack (Columbia Records/Sony Music Soundtrax) brings a refreshing change to the world of movie soundtracks. The 14 song collection is compiled of hot Hip-Hop and R&B tracks that will surely please the most discerning musical ears. And yes, the songs actually relate to the movie! "What You Want," the first single off the soundtrack, combines Philly's finest-The Roots-and new artist Jaguar. This cut is getting a lot of play on the radio and in the clubs. The album's other Hip-Hop song, "Hit it Up," is from those pigeon-flockin' Sporty Thievz. A smattering of cowbells leads into the Thievz' trademark 'Uh-Oh,' and another tale of the Sporty life follows.

The rest of "The Best Man" soundtrack is a rhythmic journey guided

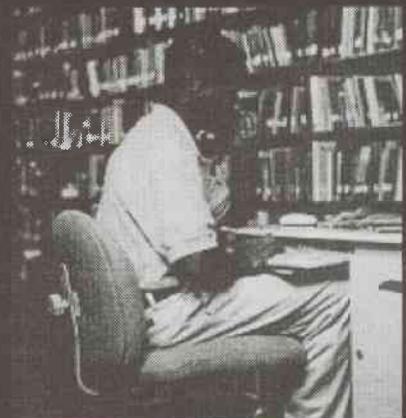
by many of the leaders of the 'new soul' through that thing called love. Maxwell's "Let's Not Play the Game," the more sophisticated second single, is a plea for honesty and commitment in relationships. Maxwell returns later in the soundtrack with the thoughtful "As My Girl," in which he encourages his lover to greatness while exposing a touch of male insecurity. In one of the best efforts on the soundtrack, "Poetry Girl," Eric Benet discovers his soul in the thoughts and poems of a newfound love. Although it may be too long for radio play, the romantic narrative-style lyrics and enchanting Latin undertone will get this one plenty of playtime in the house and car. Ginuwine, R.L., Tyrese, and Case, collaborate on "The Best Man I Can Be," an inspirational prompt to men and to brothers to help each other through life.

Other highlights on this soundtrack include newcomers Beyonce and Marc Nelson's serenade after having had a rocky courtship on "After All is Said and Done"; Mr. Sensitive, a.k.a. Kenny Lattimore, sings to a "Beautiful Girl"; and the improvised sound of Me'shell Ndege'cello's "Untitled" is so funky

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