

ENTERTAINMENT

Vibes, Beats and ...

Boyz II Men "Evolution" Motown Records

Once again, it's on! The multi-platinum recording artists **Boyz II Men** are back with another smash album.

While their first album, 1991's **Cooleyhighharmony** sold 9 million copies and their follow up, **Boyz II Men II**, sold a whopping 12 million copies, you can only anticipate the damage their current album, **Evolution**, is going to do to the music industry.

The first single, **4 Seasons of Loneliness**, is just a taste of what to expect. Songs like **Doin' Just Fine** and **Dear God** are examples of regular Boyz II Men extravaganzas. These are the typical love songs that you expect them to do. They also showcase their talent with a remake of New Edition's **Can You Stand the Rain**.

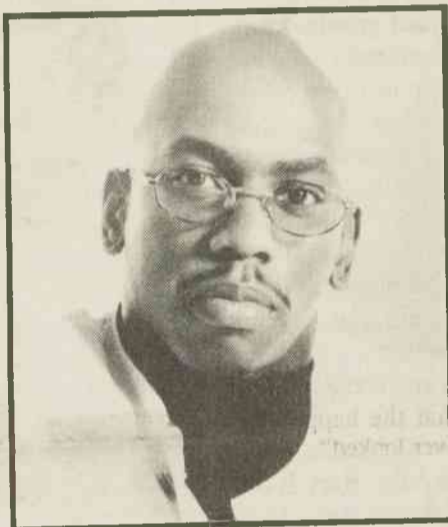
You are probably wondering how can this mega group get any better? When will the evolution take place? Then you hear **A Song for Mama**, which will probably be the theme song for all African-American families. Written by Babyface, the song of the current **Soul Food** soundtrack and **Never** which talks about never giving up the chance to love again once you've been hurt, also written by Babyface, Nathan Morris, Shawn Stockman, Michael McCray and Wanya Morris will help you realize it is possible! The combined producing talents on this project include: Boyz II Men, Babyface, Sean "Puffy" Combs, Keith Crouch, and

Jimmy Jam & Terry Lewis.

The success of **Evolution** is evident with the soulful R&B sounds of **Boyz II Men!**

- Danielle Prophete -

Uncle Sam "Uncle Sam" Stonecreek Records



Uncle Sam

If you haven't paid your delinquent taxes, after listening to the self-titled debut album, **Uncle Sam**, you will probably want to pay yours and someone else's!

Stonecreek recording artists Uncle Sam a.k.a. Sam Turner is definitely a

firecracker waiting to POP! His first release, **Can You Feel It**, produced, arranged and co-written by Wanya Morris of Boyz II Men, former Wu-Tang Clan rapper, Popa Chief and Mas-PD, is a boring up-tempo, but don't let that stop you from checking out the rest of the album.

He is a balladeer in his own right. Born the son of a Baptist minister and known to his congregation as "Singing Sam," Uncle Sam will definitely win the hearts of many ladies, young and old, with hits like **Baby You Are, Without Lovin' You** and **Stop Foolin' Around**.

As the first artist released on the newly founded record label Stonecreek, By Boyz II Men, one of the best selling groups in music history, the pressure is "gonna be" on Uncle Sam to establish his own identity, instead of being looked at as a clone of the powerful foursome.

Boyz II Men, along with other well known powerhouses are featured on this debut album, so a couple of the tracks are evident of the regular Boyz II Men flavor. But Uncle Sam shows his own vocal capabilities on the remake of the Force MD's 1985 hit **Tender Love**. With his 1997 flava, it's sure to be a hit again!

Ladies, if you ever "mess up" with your man, you better hope your man doesn't play Uncle Sam's anticipated second release, **I Don't Ever Want to See You Again**. With the feeling Uncle Sam puts in this song along with the deep monologue from Boyz II Men's Michael McCray, a.k.a. Bass, you can really feel the heartache and pain delivered straight to you. If he does, It's Over!

- Danielle Prophete -

Joe "All That I Am"

The mellow tones of Joe are topping the charts once again. At his first outing, he gave us "All The Things (Your Man Won't Do)," from **The Don't Be a Menace** soundtrack. Now he serenades you with "The Love Scene" from his newly released album **All That I Am**. This song sets up a perfect love scene for Joe and his partner. Check it out and you can learn a little something from the man.

Ladies he is pouring out his heart to you with 12 tracks guaranteed to blow you away. This album includes "Don't Wanna Be A Player," "Good Girls," and "All That I Am." "Good Girls," a personal favorite, deals with a man being swept off of his feet by a special someone. The sad thing is that she already has a lover of her own.

This leads to the song, "Good Girls" and shows why they are taken every time. The fellows can understand where he is coming from.

Joe produced, **All That I Am**, with the assistance of Larry Campbell, Rodney Jenkins, Gerald Levert, and Joshua Thompson. So if you're into "The Love Scene" and looking for a few pointers pick up Joe's **All That I Am**.

- Johnny Watkins -

Movie Reviews

HOODLUM

Bill Duke's film, **Hoodlum**, showcased what few black films of this genre elaborate on, "black intelligence."

Ellsworth "Bumpy" Johnson (Lawrence Fishburne) was a common criminal who ran numbers in Harlem during the Depression. While serving time in prison he read books, wrote poetry and educated himself; something we rarely see black criminals portrayed doing in film.

Although Bumpy was a criminal, he had an element of sophistication and was intelligent. He manipulated the minds of "mafia head" Lucky Luciano (Andy Garcia) and "uptown numbers king" Dutch Schultz (Tim Roth) to benefit himself and the over 2,000 blacks who

ran numbers in Harlem.

Schultz wanted to monopolize the illegal numbers operation not only in his neck of the woods, but in Harlem as well. It's Bumpy's job to make sure that doesn't become reality.

I will not reveal what he does, but it's entertaining as well as clever. You'll feel Bumpy's emotions and feel the pain of the people who were murdered in the film.

If you are tired of "collard green movies" and black thug pictures, check out director Duke's best picture to date, "Hoodlum," a story about love, hate, lies and organized crime.

-Vince Woody-

SPAWN

The story begins five years after Al Simmons (Michael Jai White) was murdered by corrupt colleagues in a covert government. He makes a Faustian pact with the devil so that he could be resurrected to see his beloved wife, Wanda (Theresa Randle) one last time.

Simmons was a one-man army and the ultimate operative before he was assassinated. But nothing compares to the chameleon-like powers given to him by his new malevolent master. As he begins to discover and exercise his extraordinary new strengths, he is approached by two mysterious figures who direct him to use his talents to serve two very different agendas.

Cogliostro (Nicol Williamson)

encourages Spawn to fight the devil and reign as a true champion for humankind; while Clown (John Leguizamo), a corpulence waddling wanderer with a scatological sense of humor, prods Spawn to lead the Armageddon.

The clown turns to the nefarious government agent Jason Wynn (Martin Sheen) to help insure that Spawn completes his pact with the devil. The epitome of a greed-driven powermonger, Wynn is the man behind Simon's assassination and the focus of Spawn's obsessive revenge. Wynn, who is hoping to gain control of the world, has strategically planted bombs containing ultra-deadly Heat 16 in major metropolitan cities across the globe.

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