

ENTERTAINMENT

112: Up Close and Personal

BY DANIELLE PROPHETE
Editor

I sat down with four very talented young men on October 31, just before they performed live at the Winston-Salem State University's Homecoming show.

Daron, Michael, Q and Slim make up this foursome better known to their fans as 112.

Originally from Atlanta, Ga., 112, got their name after auditioning for mega producer Sean "Puffy" Combs in front of the popular Atlanta night club 112.

"Puffy has really been an inspiration for us," said Slim, an 18-year old Libra. "We owe a lot to him and all the 112 fans out there for supporting us."

"The fans helped "Only You" and "Cupid" off the self titled debut album, "112," go platinum," said Michael, an 18-year-old Sagittarius. "The fans have really showed their love."

"The foursome is quite comfortable performing before live audiences so they

were ready to give Winston-Salem a show for their money. They are currently anticipating their fourth tour, "The Bad Boy Family Tour," which will feature Puff Daddy, Busta Rhymed, The Firm, Usher and Foxy Brown. The tour will inevitably bring them back to the Triad area.

"We love to tour," said Daron, 19. "The only thing we don't like about it is being away from home."

Considering the group has been home maybe two months out of the year, their social life is definitely not happening. All four gentleman remain single, "but we are certainly looking," said Slim, with an innocent laugh.

Although there will be no more releases off their current album, their success has shot them to super stardom rendering them many soundtrack offers.

"So our fans can possibly look forward to hearing some new material real soon," said Q. "We will also be



Musical Sensations - 112

Photo By : Danielle Prophete

working on a new album at the beginning of the new year."

In the future, "112" plans to do more

producing and writing for their future projects, as well as maybe one day enroll in college.

Vibes, Beats and....

The Velvet Rope Janet Jackson

Three years was definitely worth the wait as a mature and wiser Janet Jackson is back! Jackson, the youngest female in the famous Jackson clan, proves that she is a force to be reckoned with on her latest CD, "The Velvet Rope."

After signing a record-breaking music deal with her new label, Virgin Records, she does not miss a beat. Teaming up with the hit-making duo, Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis of Flyte Time Productions, she sings songs of love, relationships, heartache, and her own personal freedom.

From the slow ballads of "Tonight's the Night," "I Get Lonely," and "My Need" she tears up the dance floor with "Got Til It's Gone," "Anything," and the title cut, "The Velvet Rope." Jackson continues to prove with each new recording that she is an artist with a lot of songs to sing.

If you have not gone out and bought the 22-song CD, then this is a perfect opportunity to go out and do so. You will

not be disappointed. It will make a perfect stocking stuffer for the holidays!

-Andrew Means

Strength John P. Kee

For the Rams who missed John P. Kee and The New Life Community Choir's performance at the Gospel Fest during Homecoming, don't despair check out their new album, **Strength**.

This new album offers spiritual guidance and upliftment with songs such as "I do Worship" and "Mighty God." "I Do Worship" is a testimony song. The song talks about all the things that God has done for you and how you give praise and worship. "Mighty God" is about God being the life and strength in a person. Whatever a person does, they do it through God.

Have you ever been in church and you felt like the preacher or choir was talking to you/ When you felt that feeling in church, you felt like you wanted to jump, go to the front of the congregation, or just shouting? Well, you can get that

same feeling from **Strength**.

Kee and The New Life Community Choir sings each song with passion as if they are singing it for the first time. You can feel the energy from the songs. "Turn Around" and "Clap Your Hands" are some of the powerful energizing songs that will send your spirit through the roof! This is a must buy album for anyone who is looking for spiritual outlet.

-Luciana Jackson

Harlem World Mase

You've heard this man in hits such as the remix of 112's "Only You" accompanied by the late Notorious BIG and his mentor/CEO of Bad Boy Records Sean "Puffy" Combs. You've also heard him once again accompanied by Puffy and the Notorious BIG, in the often played "Mo'Money, Mo' Problems." Now finally he's come out with his own album. Yes, it's Mase and his album is tight.

His mellow, yet rugged voice is two-dimensional. He could lull the ladies with

his smooth voice as well as put out a message that the fellas can relate to.

Born in Harlem, Mase begin his singing career as many rappers do - on the streets. He later began rapping and now with the release of his solo album, he an officially be called a successful rapper.

Featured on his album are such songs as "Feel So Good" off of the "Money Talks" Soundtrack; "Will They Die For You," "24 Hours to Live," "Jealous Guy" and yes, "The Mad Rapper" is back with his stuttering, stammering, "playa hating" antics.

Many people say that Mase cannot perform well sols, but this allbum proves them all wrong. He holds his own on this album; I wouldn't be surprised if it went platinum with this album this year. With its 14 tracks, Mase's debut album "Harlem World" gets two enthusiastic thumbs up from me; go out and buy it as soon as possible.

-Willie Brooks