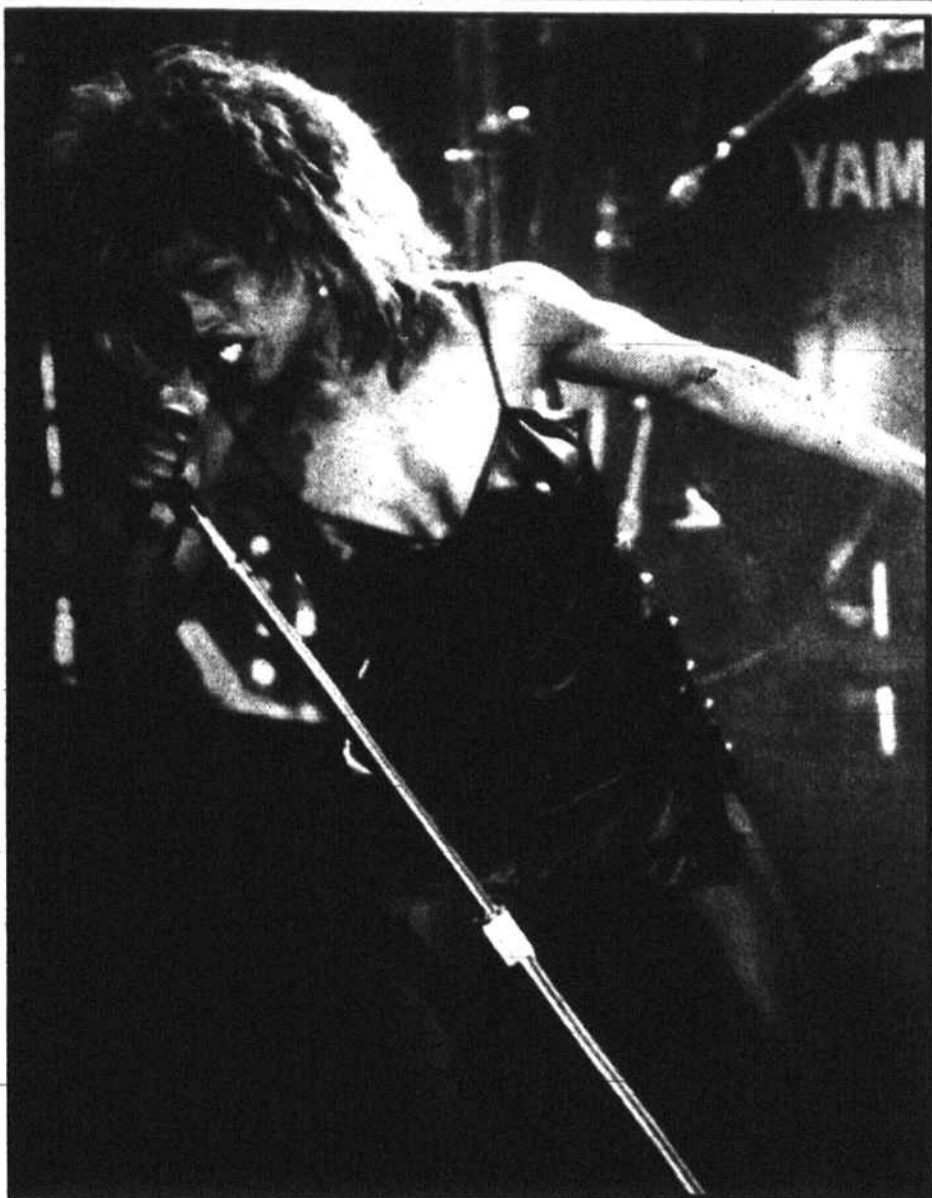


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Entertainment C1



When Tina Turner (played by Angela Bassett) wasn't electrifying audiences, she was mostly having violent confrontations with husband Ike (played by Laurence Fishburne).

Movie Review

Story Portrays Singer's Rough Rise to Fame

By SABRINA JONES
 Staff Writer

Annie Mae Bullock was a poor black girl who was abandoned by her mother, raised by her grandmother and abused by her husband. In spite of these obstacles, she has become one of the most widely recognized performers in history.

"What's Love Got To Do With It," the Touchstone Pictures release, brings the inspirational true story of singer Tina Turner to the big



screen.

Based on Turner's autobiography *I, Tina*, the film centers on the development of Annie Mae Bullock from a country girl from Nutbush, Tenn., to the world-renowned superstar, Tina Turner. Abandoned in childhood and raised by her grandmother, the wide-eyed, naive teen-ager, wonderfully portrayed by Angela Bassett ("Malcolm X," "Boyz 'n the Hood") journeys to St. Louis in the 1950s, where she is reunited with her estranged mother and sister.

While there, Annie Mae becomes mesmerized with rhythm and blues singer/songwriter Ike Turner (played by Laurence Fishburne of "Deep Cover," "Boyz 'n the Hood"), who himself becomes entranced with the young woman's talent after seeing her perform in a local nightclub. Shortly after joining Ike's band as its lead singer, Turner and Bullock begin their tumultuous affair that ends in emotional and physical torment.

As the Ike and Tina Turner Revue along with their background singers, the Ikettes, rise to fame, the couple is devastated by personal trauma as the result of Ike's continuous abuse. As the possessive man asserts his power over his increasingly popular protege, he proclaims "This is Ike and Tina. And you're gonna sing the way I want you to sing."

After enduring years of demeaning abuse (in one scene Ike punches Tina in the face and drags her by the hair in front of their children), the bat-

tered woman turns to Buddhism as a source of strength in order to finally separate from her emotionally troubled husband.

"I'm ready and I know what I want," says the newly independent Tina who embarks on her colossal solo career.

Both Bassett and Fishburne deliver powerfully realistic performances as the agonized husband and wife. Fishburne, in particular, gives a frequently shocking portrayal of the maddened singer who is overcome by the lures of power and wealth.

"What's Love Got to Do With It" features a fabulous soundtrack featuring such hits as "Proud Mary," "A Fool In Fool," "Nutbush City Limits," "River Deep, Mountain High," and of course, "What's Love Got To Do With It." Combining soulful music with eye-catching choreography, the film captures the sizzling allure that catapulted Tina to fame and fortune.

Also featured are Phyllis Yvonne Stickney ("Malcolm X," "Jungle Fever") as Turner's sister Alline and Vanessa Bell Calloway ("Coming to America") as Turner's close friend and Ikette, Jackie.

Directed by Brian Gibson ("The Josephine Baker Story"), "What's Love Got to Do With It" is the story of how one courageous woman overcomes incredible odds to realize her dream.

Johnny Gill Shares Emotions In this All-Out Sensual Assault: "The Floor"

When Johnny Gill performs, there's a mystery to him, an invisible force, an inner fire that you sense but cannot see. He makes you wonder what he's thinking, what he's feeling. He's heated. Compelling. Provocative.

On his second collection of songs for Motown Records, Johnny Gill reveals himself. The provocateur permits a review of his secret emotions, his intimacies, his vision, his world. Provocative is a personal album, full of revelations, great songs, fun music, incredible grooves and several of his best vocal performances.

The first insight you gain from this album is that Johnny Gill loves to party. Although he is universally praised as a balladeer, the first four songs on *Provocative* are jams.

The album starts on "The Floor" — a song unmistakably for the dance floor, Johnny wastes no time, spares no words in this all-out sensual assault. Backed by a steady beat and a gripping groove, Johnny delivers kinky lyrics with flair and confidence. He rides the song like a stallion.

"I have to have fun on stage," Johnny says. "I want to do more than just ballads. I want people to know they can come to my concerts and party, too. I think after I did my first album, people might have thought, 'Okay, he got away with 'Rab You the Right Way,' but can he do another up-tempo song?' I think that after this album, they'll see I can do fast songs just as well as ballads."

Next on the album, Johnny attacks with the title track, "Provocative." The song entrances you with its thick-cook-funky bass line. This time, Johnny lures his woman with a hypnotic hook: To a lucky lady/I've got so much to give/If you want it baby/Let's get provocative. He repeats that chant over and over, as if he's circling — like a panther circles his prey.

Johnny follows that hunt and conquest with a completely different mood. "Where No Man Has Gone Before" rests safely on a lilting cha-cha groove. Johnny shows his kindness, his caring: He promises to "explore new ways to share ecstasy," he offers "unlimited affection, coming from all directions," he vows to love his woman in ways no one has known before, in places "where no man has gone before."

Subtly, song by song, Johnny is telling a love story: first he sees a girl he wants on "The Floor," then he invites her to be with him on "Provocative," he promises to please her on "Where No Man Has Gone Before," and now, on the next song, he proclaims: "I Got You."

The opening music depicts the mystery that shadows Johnny Gill, then smoothly moves into a groove tune, artfully created by labelmates, proven vocalists and promising producers, Boyz II Men. They gave



Johnny Gill permits a review of his secret emotions in his latest album.

Johnny one of the most interesting melodies on *Provocative*. (They also add their flares to the background vocals.)

There's a gentler Johnny, too. In chapter two of the album, the romancer lives and breathes. For the first time ballad on the album, Johnny reunites with the

production team that added "My My My" to his last collection of hits: *LAFace*.

"Long Way from Home" is a song of reassurance, a song that says love is strong even when the lovers are apart.

"Distance doesn't matter. Love is love. It lasts no matter what," Johnny says. "What really bonds a man and woman is when you show that loyalty."

"Tell Me How U Want It" expresses the main theme of the album: Johnny's desire to please.

"I think most of us guys have gotten away from doing all the little things: holding doors, sending flowers, romancing. All of these songs on *Provocative* are about asking a woman how she wants to be loved. I'm saying I want to do what I need to do to please you."

"Mastersuite" maintains the romantic mood of the album and marks a landmark in the career of Johnny Gill. This is the first song he has recorded that he co-wrote.

"One night L.L. Cool J was over my house, just kicking it. He was in town filming his movie, 'Toys.' Out of nowhere, we decided: 'Let's write a song.' And so we did. We wrote the whole thing in one night. And then that was it. A while later, Terry Lewis was telling me that I should start thinking about writing songs. I told Terry about the song I wrote with L.L., but I didn't want to show it to him. Finally, Terry made me send it to him. After he heard it, he said it could be a hit and said I had to finish it. He helped me with the lyrics, and then he and Jimmy Jam worked on the music."

Chapter two closes with the captivating ballad, "Quiet Time to Play." The phrases rise from the music like mist from a hot-oil bath: Quiet Time for Lovin' ... Let the tension fade ... Grab the special oil ... Quiet time to play. Karyn White sings in the background.

"I Know Where I Stand" speaks of the higher force:

Money can't buy his wisdom
 Nor Silver or Gold
 In God's creation
 I know where I stand.

"That song is from the heart. It's sincere. When I'm recording I go through all these different phases. I get depressed, annoyed, upset, tired. The only person I opened up to during that time was Terry. I told Terry how I felt about all the expectations on me, the pressure. Terry told me that, regardless of all of that, you have to know where you stand. He took that conversation and made it into a song." With his self-titled, multi-platinum Motown debut, Johnny Gill created a phenomenon. He made millions of fans and followers curious about him. He created a mystique. With his latest album, he steps into the light: you see his vulnerability; you get an honest, inside view of the man and the artist; you understand that, yes, his style on stage and in the studio is compelling, provocative.

Getting "The Scoop" on the Black Entertainment World...

They Like Ike: Ike Turner, former hubby to rock/pop queen Tina Turner is on somewhat of a comeback. Since the release of the hot new movie, "What's Love Got to Do with It," based on Tina's autobiography, Ike's become a hot item among the media. In a recent interview with "The Scoop," Ike reveals plans for his own autobiography, which he says, "my version will set the record straight on many things ..." He's also got a new nine-piece band, with whom he's recording an album. And, he had this to say regarding Tina and her Ikettes: "I don't dance, but every step people saw Tina and (the) Ikettes do, came from me. I

trained Tina on how to dance ... I was the first person to do the robot dance, and when I knew anything, the whole world was doing it! I'm now training some new 90's version of the Ikettes — they're from 18-30 ..." By the way, Ike is 61 years old.

Is it a Black Thang?: Twins Albert and Alan Hughes, directors of the smash hit movie "Menace II Society," made this comment to "The Scoop" during a lengthy interview: "We don't like being compared to other black filmmakers," says Alan. "We're offended. Other black filmmakers should also be offended, too,

because the media tries to categorize all of us, as if to say, 'All you black filmmakers go over into that corner.' They don't refer to us as 'filmmakers' — period, as they do with Scorsese and others ..."

Family Matters: Recording star James Ingram and his wife of nearly 20 years have three girls, two boys and another baby daughter on the way, by the fall. What's ironic is that James comes from a family of the opposite make-up: four boys and two girls! All of James' children have first names that begin with the letter "J."

Yakety Yak Actor: Talk-show host Montel Williams has been smitten by the old acting bug. He's done a few minor roles in some upcoming television episodes and also did other acting parts before he started talking that talk on his own TV talk show. The acting bug has also been nibbling on crooner Peabo Bryson. Super/Scooper/Sources say that Bryson reportedly almost turned down doing the "Beauty and the Beast" soundtrack project because he wanted to act in a community theater play! He had a change of heart, thank goodness, and the rest is history, of course. Catch Peabo on tour with Kenny G, coming to a city near you soon.