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THE CHARLOTTE POST

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Durrell Coleman's First Album Is "Very Impressive"

By Loretta Manago
Post Managing Editor

Listening to the radio these days there's an awful lot you may not want to hear. But if you listen close enough, there's one voice singing, "Somebody Took My Love." And you begin to think to yourself, "Hey, this guy's not bad." But you know that he's new, so the mystery to unveil is "Who is this guy?"

Does the name Durrell Coleman ring any bells? It does, if you happen to be a fan of "Star Search," that show which seeks to discover, undiscovered talent. Last year on the same show, he won the title of "Best Male Vocalist," defeating 13 other males who were competing against him in the same category. In the history of the show, Coleman was the only male vocalist to retire undefeated.

Now, Coleman has released his debut album on Island Records. Considering the number of heavyweight producers on "Durrell Coleman," the album is probably as impressive as the man himself.

David Kershbaum gives Coleman the up-tempo single, "Somebody took my love" as well as the muscular ballad, "I Should Have Known Better" and a simple Memphis-tinged production of "When A Man Loves A Woman." Earth, Wind & Fire's Al McKay and Clarence McDonald offer three tracks of steel sinewed flash and funk, "Take Me Back To My Love In China," "Tender Blue" and "Do You Love Me." Matri Sharron and Gary Skardina introduce a touch of the Caribbean with "Run To Me," while songwriter Tom Snow makes his production debut with "I Had A Sure Thing" and "One False Move."

Before "Star Search," Coleman was known only to those who frequented the lounges throughout the South and East



DURRELL COLEMAN

...An "up and coming" star

Coast. He began singing professionally at the age of 16, his first group being the Cordnators. They had heard him sing on a street corner with some friends and were so impressed that they asked Coleman to join them.

For Coleman, singing has always been as natural an act as breathing. According to his father, Coleman was singing before he talked. Even Coleman can remember the days that he and his sister, while washing

dishes, would harmonize the tunes made famous by Peaches and Herb and Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell. Like many performers who become famous, Coleman's first exposure to the public as a singer was as a member of the choir.

All those around Coleman, friends and family, were convinced that he had what it took to make it as a singer. Coleman knew that it would take acceptance of a much broader audi-

ence to prove to himself they were right. He took the advice of his friend, Carl Vickers of LTD, and headed out to Los Angeles.

"Star Search" had just begun airing two months prior to Coleman's arrival to L.A. and once the then unknown singer arrived in town, his first step was to apply for a spot on the show. It took awhile before Coleman made "Star Search." In the meantime, the aspiring singer made a living first as a hamburger restaurant host and later, as a male nurse. In the evenings he worked at local night clubs for "free."

However, it was his work at the hospital that give him his first, major break. While working there, Coleman discovered that one of his patients, Molly Bertman, was visited every day by her ex-son-in-law, entertainer Tony Orlando. After listening to Coleman talk about his show business aspirations, he asked him to send a tape. Although Orlando agreed to listen to his tape, Coleman never expected to hear back immediately. He loved it and wanted Durrell to meet his manager Sherin Bash, whose firm represents the Commodores and Natalie Cole. Coleman subsequently signed with Bash for artist management. When Chris Blackwell saw Coleman on "Star Search," he immediately flew to Los Angeles to sign Coleman to a worldwide contract with Island Records.

Harvest Fest Show

Heath Springs Order of the Eastern Star and the Barron Masonic Lodge will host a Harvest Fest Craft Show on Saturday, October 26, 9 a.m. until 3 p.m., at Heath Springs Middle School, Hwy. 521 Heath Springs, S.C.

Hot dog plates will be served from 11 until 2 p.m.