

★ MOVIES  
★ THEATRE  
★ DINING

# Entertainment

★ DANCING  
★ SHOWS  
★ LOUNGES

## THE CHARLOTTE POST

"Charlotte's Fastest Growing Community Weekly"

Thursday, July 31, 1986 - THE CHARLOTTE POST - Page 1B



Meli'sa Morgan  
.....Rising new talent

### Out Of The Background Meli'sa Morgan Is In The Spotlight

By Loretta Manago  
Post Managing Editor

Goodbye background! The spotlight is on Meli'sa Morgan now. From the shadows of Chaka Khan and Kashif, Meli'sa Morgan is establishing herself in the entertainment circles.

Already she has taken admirers by surprise with the release of her first single, "Do Me, Baby," originally recorded by Prince. Meli'sa's strong vocals took this tune to number one on the R&B charts and now her new hit, "Do You Still Love Me," has reached top ten.

For Meli'sa, the church choir gave her foundations first exposure to singing and performing. Her transition from the church to local singing groups eventually led to her Juilliard's, where she studied music.

Not being able to break into the music field through the groups she affiliated herself with, Meli'sa went on to doing background work. Her first touring job was with Chaka Khan. Later she went on the road with budding R&B star Kashif. Studio assignments with Kashif, Houston, and Melba Moore followed before her management company, Hush Productions, landed her a deal with Capitol Records.

Meli'sa comments that the work she has done as a backup artist has prepared her tremendously for the role she's playing now. "I saw a lot. And I thought to myself that when it became my turn I would do something a particular way. I watched others and what they did to get the audience to respond."

What also works in Meli'sa's favor is the fact that she is a songwriter as well. "I've been writing since I was 14," responds the composer of seven of the album's eight songs.

"I do lyrics and melodies. I have so much to learn about songwriting that it scares me sometimes. I want to be good-great even. I'm far from that now."

There's more. Morgan produces, too. "I had to fight to produce," recalls Meli'sa. "They were going to let someone else produce because of their experience. But they didn't want me to do it because they said I was busy enough with the singing and songwriting. Plus I didn't have any experience. But I wouldn't accept that. I had exposure to producing, enough to

know I could do it. My attitude was that if they wanted those songs to be recorded, that they had to let me involved in producing them. I just wouldn't take no for an answer."

Meli'sa gets what she wants because she accepts no less than what she wants. "Nobody pushes me around, I don't let it happen. I'm not super tough and I'm not hard as nails. But I am aggressive when I have to be. I'm not dumb. I look, listen, and learn. You get trampled in this business if you don't. I know what I want and I go after it."

Now in tour until the first of September, Meli'sa is going for what she wants - full steam ahead. And what she wants is to be able to give her talent and reap all of the just desserts a luxurious career in music can afford.