

Entertainment



Millie Jackson Claims 'First Lady Of Soul' Tag

"I Had To Sav It" is the eagerly-awaited follow-up to the critically-acclaimed "For Men Only," and, with its release, Millie Jackson lays conclusive claim to her title as the First Lady of Soul. Once again co-produced with her long-time collaborator Brad Shapiro, "I Had To Sav It" tackles social issues like only the great Millie can — with a no-holds-barred frankness and a sense of humor which spills off the disc and into your heart. "I Had To Sav It" should add to the legions of Millie Jackson fans who already recognize this superlative performer's multiple talents and abilities, demonstrated on such soon-to-be-classics as, "I ain't No Glory Story," the Sam Lorber and Jeff Silbar-penned "Ladies First" and the Millie Jackson-Al BreVard composition "You Owe Me That Much." If last year's "Live and Uncensored" seared with explicit intensity, "I Had To Sav It" smolders with the type of unabashed honesty and frankness the public has come to expect from the very special and courageous Millie Jackson.

Georgia-born Millie is no stranger to controversy, ever since her first release for Spring Records, the single "A Child Of God," which dealt head-on with sexual and social hypocrisy.

BILL LANE

HOLLYWOOD

Vernel Baoneris is all amazed at the topper of a success his musical "One Mo' Time" is turning in here at the Aquarius Theatre. Although the music of the show is from the Twenties, the nostalgia buffs are packin' the place nightly. But Baoneris is not just settling for his own show's success. As did Nell Carter, during the run of her show starrer, "Ain't Misbehavin'" at the Aquarius, Baoneris is getting moonlight jobs in movies. After all, this is the movie center. Nell Carter got movies and television. Baoneris has signed to co-star with Steve Martin in the film "Pennies From Heaven."

AND speaking of nostalgia, over in New York they are getting set for a look at "Sophisticated Ladies," a musical based on the life and music of Duke Ellington. Included in the cast are Judith Jamison, Gregory Hines and Phyllis Hyman. Miss Hyman's new record album, produced by Norman Connors, just may be released around

February 22, at the time the musical opens at the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre on Broadway in Gotham.

AND Aretha Franklin is also now readying to begin rehearsals to star in her first Broadway musical.

And speaking of Duke Ellington, Leonard Feather, the jazz author and music critic of the L.A. Times syndicate, is set for honors on January 3 here at the Coconut Grove of the Ambassador Hotel on a gala evening celebrating the music of the Duke. Peggy Lee, Sarah Vaughan, Joe Williams and bandleader Tommy Newsom are among music's greats who are slated to be on hand. They are all dedicated to setting up a Leonard Feather Scholarship at the Duke Ellington School of Arts in Washington, D.C.

AND speaking of honors, music's Kenny Gamble was awarded the AMC Cancer Research humanitarian kudo in NYC the other night, the event at the Hilton highlighting the urgent need for support of cancer research. More black people reportedly die from causes due to cancer than do whites in these United States.

THE recording group Tierra is out with a new album which features eight songs, seven of which were written by a member and producer of the group Tierra. The eighth song was written by Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff, and titled "Toaether." Which song has suddenly become a radio hit for the group. You guessed it, "Toaether."

BERNIE Hamilton, the top cop in the "Starsky and Hutch" series, has a brand new car going for



MILLIE JACKSON



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