

Entertainment

Paul Anka Protege

WHO IS ODIA COATES?

"Odia Coates? I don't care what she sounds like or looks like, I love her name. Get her down here!"

So said Paul Anka when Edwin Hawkins suggested an initial meeting between Anka and his soon to be protege. Perhaps not the most believable success story — but true. And if the name Odia Coates sounded good to Paul, the lady behind it brought even better vibes and a string of hit records from the now well-known Anka/Coates team.

Meeting Anka was indeed a turning point in the career of the Mississippi-born L.A.-raised songstress. Her musical talents were first displayed at L.A.'s Beautiful Gates Church Of God, where her father was pastor. Odia played piano and sang in the choir there and later went on to join the Southern California Youth Choir, which bred a number of other up and coming talents including Billy Preston, Merry Clayton and Mel Carter.

Although she looks back on her disciplined gospel beginnings with fond memories, Odia recalls alternating sessions of choir prac-

tice with listening privately to contemporary singers. Ironically, among her favorites at the time was a young Canadian



Odia Coates

named Paul Anka.

A capsulized version of Odia's early career will reveal that around 1968 she landed her first professional gig while moonlighting as a secretary in the San Francisco Bay Area. Later she became lead vocalist with Brotherly Love, which played Vegas and the Bay Area. She stayed with that group a few years, learning her craft by singing rock and r&b before joining the Sisters Love

On their initial hit, "Having My Baby," only Paul's name appeared on the label. It was all part of a plan according to Paul, who speculated that, "If we didn't put

her name on the label, everyone would ask — 'who's the girl?'" If that was the plan, it worked. By the time the follow-up, "One Man Woman, One Woman Man" was released and Odia's name did appear on the record, she was already identified as a veteran of one of the biggest hits of the year.

On her own again and with a sense of optimism about the future, Odia is writing songs and preparing to record.

Backstage, Odia's "other life" is shared with her husband, Shelby, an Anthropologist. If at first glance music and anthropology don't seem to make an ideal union, take note that Odia is the veteran of a recent anthropological expedition to South America and is anxiously awaiting the next one.

Odia Coates. The lady with the great name and the talent to match it. Although she's already been praised as she shared the Anka spotlight, she's now at the juncture of something new, and in many ways, Odia's road is just beginning.

FREDA PAYNE NEW TALK SHOW HOST

— TWG Productions Inc., a Gerber/Carter Communications subsidiary, has produced new first-run, half-hour series for black female audiences titled "Today's Black Woman," hosted by

popular recording artist and actress Freda Payne. The announcement was made by Charles S. Gerber, President of Gerber/Carter Communications, syndicator of the series.

"Today's Black Woman" was scheduled to debut on February 1 in over 50 markets, including WABC-TV, New

York; WLS-TV, Chicago; KABC-TV, Los Angeles; KPLR-TV, St. Louis; WJLA-TV, Washington;

WPHL-TV, Philadelphia; WXIA-TV, Atlanta; WCIX-TV, Miami; KRIV-TV, Houston; WUAB-TV,

Cleveland; WLWT, Cincinnati and WGPR-TV, Detroit. The series, which will feature

celebrity interviews and hard-hitting discussions, began production on January 12 in New York and is planned to

beauty product leader for 60 years, manufactures such products as Ultra Glow Skin Cream, Nutrition and Long-Aid K-



Freda Payne Hosts Talk Show

include location shooting after the first cycle of 39 shows.

Keystone Laboratories Inc. of Memphis, Tennessee will be the full sponsor of the series, retaining 2 1/2 minutes of advertising time while local stations will have 3 1/2 minutes to sell in their individual markets. Keystone, a health and

7 hair products.

"Today's Black Woman" will deal with a wide range of subjects, from single parenting and abortion to child development and show business. Freda Payne, herself a single parent, promises "a no-holds-barred forum, not the standard host/interview type of television journalism."

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- DON'T STOP THE MUSIC - YARBROUGH & PEOPLES
- I'LL NEVER LOVE THE SAME WAY TWICE - BARBARA MASON
- TOGETHER - TIERRA
- HERE'S TO YOU - SKYY
- AGONY OF DEFEET - PARLIAMENT
- MAGIC MAN - ROBERT WINTERS & FALL
- IF YOU EVER NEED SOMEBODY - CHARLES VEAL
- GLAD YOU CAME - JOE SIMON
- UNDERSTANDING - TRUTH
- HOLD ON TO LOVE - HEATWAVE

- FEEL ME - CAMEO
- WATCHING YOU - SLAVE
- FULL OF FIRE - SHALAMAR
- HEY YOU - SYMBA
- BOOGIE BODY LAND - BARKAYS
- TAKE OUT THE HANDKERCHIEF - ASHFORD & SIMPSON
- I'M READY - KANO
- SUSPICIOUS - LENNY WILLIAMS
- WHEN WE GET MARRIED - LARRY GRAHAM
- IT'S MY TURN - DIANA ROSS

ALBUMS

- 1. THE AWAKENING - THE REDDINGS
- 2. FEEL ME - CAMEO
- 3. CELEBRATION - KOOL & THE GANG
- 4. HOTTER THAN JULY - STEVIE WONDER
- 5. ARETHA - ARETHA FRANKLIN
- 6. FANTASTIC VOYAGE - LAKESIDE
- 7. PORTRAIT OF CARRIE - CARRIE LUCAS
- 8. THIS IS MY DREAM - SWITCH
- 9. TRIUMPH - JACKSONS
- 10. IN A DRAMATIC MOOD - DRAMATICS
- 11. FACES - EARTH, WIND & FIRE
- 12. FOR THOSE WHO LOVE - PERRY & SANLIT
- 13. POSH - PATRICE RUSHEN
- 14. I'M YOURS - LINDA CLIFFORD
- 15. AT PEACE WITH WOMAN - JONES GIRLS
- 16. NO TIME LIKE NOW - PHILLY CREAM
- 17. TOUCH - CON FUNK SHUN
- 18. AS ONE - BARKAYS
- 19. SOFT LIGHTS, SWEET MUSIC - ENCHANTMENT
- 20. IRONS IN THE FIRE - TEENA MARIE
- 21. JERMAINE - JERMAINE JACKSON
- 22. CANDLES - HEATWAVE
- 23. LIVE AND MORE - ROBERTA FLACK & PEABO BRYSON
- 24. LOVE UPRISING - TAVARES
- 25. HOUSE OF MUSIC - T.S. MONK
- 26. GAP BAND III - GAP BAND
- 27. ULTRAMAVE - BUOTSY
- 28. HEAVENLY BODY - CHILITES

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