

# Entertainment



## ARTIST OF THE WEEK

By Lady Essence

Jazz artist Randy Crawford was born Veronica Crawford on February 18, 1952 in Macon, Georgia. Like a lot of black singing stars, Randy started out singing in the church choir. When she was 15, she started working in local clubs and had to be chaperoned by her father.

A year later she joined a local jazz group whose pianist encouraged Randy to study piano and acquire some basic musical knowledge. So, she took time off to learn the fundamentals of her craft, earning her keep by playing in a club in St. Tropez in Southern France, before returning to rejoin her trio in Cincinnati. She worked on local TV shows where she was eventually spotted by a talent scout and recommended to a major Los Angeles booking agent.

Immediately, Randy began doing session work, songwriting, demos and occasional club dates. She got her first big break in 1975. The affair was the World Jazz Association's first gala concert, held at the Shrine Auditorium and featured Quincy Jones, Stan Getz, Jimmy Smith, Bob James, George Benson and a virtually unknown artist by the name of Randy Crawford. Bob Krasnow, Vice President of Talent at Warner Bros., was in the audience and by the end of the night he was backstage offering her a recording contract.

Randy's first album for Warner Bros., *Everything Must Change*, included two tracks recorded live at the Shrine, where she had performed material from Adderley's *Big Man* album. A year later, she released her second LP entitled *Miss Randy Crawford*. This album revealed a less jazzy side of her repertoire.

The ballad-rich 1978 release, *Raw Silk*, was her third album and it was definitely a change of pace from the prevailing disco trend of that year. This was also the year that Randy was recruited by Joe Sample and the Crusaders to be their lead vocalist in the composition "Street Life," the most successful recording in the Crusaders' history.

*Secret Combination*, Randy's fifth album, began her association with renowned producer Tommy LiPuma, known primarily for his successful work with George Benson. His association with her continued on the *Windsong* LP. This album highlights eleven new songs and a number of top rated musicians, including Michael Sembello, David Sanborn, Lenny Castro and many more.



RANDY CRAWFORD



Randy's latest album is entitled *Niteline* and it's a barn-burner! It has a little bit of everything in it, such as fast, up-tempo music that makes you want to dance, to ballads and jazz cuts that will send you to heaven. It's dynamite, and so is she.

Randy Crawford, the lady with an abundance of talents, and that's not exaggeration. Keep listening and she will prove it to you if she hasn't already!

### LV Little Theater To Hold Auditions

The Las Vegas Little Theater will hold auditions for their "Christmas Special" on Monday, Nov. 14, and Tuesday, Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Improvisation is required.

Typed needed include men, women and children of all ages.

The Las Vegas Little Theater is located at 2228 Spring Mountain Road (behind the Fashion Show Mall.)

For further information, call 737-7836.

### Jazz Society Presents Joe Williams

The Las Vegas Jazz Society presents "Joe Williams After Hours" on Nov. 26, Saturday night/Sunday morning, at 1:30 A.M. in the Congo Room of the Sahara Hotel.

Tickets cost \$12.50. Las Vegas Jazz Society members will receive a \$2 rebate at the door. Tickets may be purchased at Music City, The Drum Shop, and Tech Stereo.

Plan to be present at this memorable jazz event.

## BILLIE ROWE'S NOTEBOOK

### '84 MISS AMERICA' JUST WHAT DEMOCRACY NEEDED

WASHINGTON, D.C.

— The coronation of lovely and talented Vanessa Williams as '84s "Miss America" has added a historic glow to the tiara of democracy. Meeting her here, at the Nat'l Press Club's luncheon, and again at the Nat'l Black Mayors' hosted reception, was an experience worth writing home about. To take liberties with an old cliché, we went, we saw and we were conquered.

Not mincing words, she is one of the most delightful winners to ever emerge from Atlantic City's internationally known September pageant. An unusually well informed 20 yr. old person, she will not only represent the ideals of that event well during her 12 months' reign, but add lustre to the tarnished image of the free world.

Her dispassionate appraisal of what has happened to her, since being judged "Miss America," at the press Club's luncheon was superlative. She seemed well aware of her impact upon our time, yet in no way insensible to her role as the first talented beauty of African heritage to capture this lucrative title. During the question and answer session she proved herself a match for the smartest and most devious of inquiring newsmen, as she thinks on her feet. Her answers were sincere, succinct and unbridled by evasions. From a femme side she came on eye-level super-elegant.

Each stride exhibited exquisite grace and eloquence of grooming. She said that the dumbest question ever thrown earward was when somebody asked her "If the pageant was fixed." The hurting talk about was that "hers wasn't a breakthrough because, 'She didn't look black.'"

"That hurt. That really hurt me," she said, "That was upsetting. And I asked myself, why did I do this. Who was there to be proud of me?" Unquote — All of us,



Van'essa Williams, who believe in humanity as created by the divine spirit. History will record the immortality of your achievement and give all of us a piece of it, because you are what you are.

### CONVERSATION

ROWE: Seems that top singer Dionne Warwick cannot depend on any southern hospitality around Charlotte, N.C. There were a lot of dimes dropped by fans to pan her on a local deejay show after her concert there. However, it was not for lack of talent, but because she allegedly took 45 minutes to make her onstage entrance after her opening act and then was rough on the candy hawker. In fact, she allegedly finally had him ousted. Well, he shouldn't have been selling popcorn while she was singing anyway. Some of the same crowd is uptight with Helen Reddy who made the scene before Dionne and charged a skyhi \$18 top tab for a hr'long show ... According to Dick Grifey, the slings and arrows of the nat'l conference of the upscheduled Black Music Assn. in the Big Apple next week will be targeted at segregation ... The University of Nevada is expected to break all records with its benefit show Dec. 16th. Sammy Davis, Jr., Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin

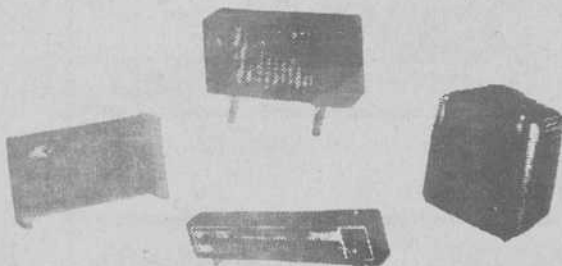
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## HEATERS



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