

Natalie Cole Features Songs From New Album "Dangerous" At Caesars Palace Engagement

It doesn't seem that long ago that Los Angeles Times critic Bob Hilburn described Natalie Cole as "one of the most enticing acts in pop music." But in actuality, the resilient songstress is entering her second decade as one of contemporary music's most gifted song stylists.

And when you hear her debut album on Modern

Atlantic Records, *Dangerous*, you'll hear why Natalie is still not only one of the most enticing acts in pop music, but her awesome, fiery and infectious vocal talents are just what the album implies...*dangerous!*

"*Dangerous*," also the album's first single, was off and running up the charts the last time we checked.

Penned by Marti Sharron,

Gary Skardina and Stephen Mitchell (who penned the Pointer Sisters' smash hit "Jump"), it reaffirms a fresh and embracing new musical direction for Natalie.

It comes after Natalie took some "needed personal time to reflect on my life in the fastlane," and to develop a new perspective on life and her career.

Over the past decade,

Natalie jammed together her rise to international stardom, with a string of gold and platinum records, Grammy Awards, SRO tours and numerous other musical accolades, while adjusting to different record companies and managers. Personally, Natalie also married, is the mother of a 7 year-old son, and with the recent passing of her former husband,

Marvin Yancy, she is learning to adapt to life as a totally single parent.

Natalie admits there were a lot of ups and downs and personal anguish on the road to becoming famous, but

studio, Natalie studies with vocal coach Seth Riggs. She worked at a level above her range, so by the time she went into the studio, she was singing without straining in her natural range. The



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Natalie Cole

she's a survivor and enthused, "making *Dangerous* was like starting a new career. I feel rejuvenated, only now I've got years of experience and maturity I didn't have when I started.

"Working with totally new people, a new record company, and my manager Dan Cleary, gave me renewed confidence and excitement. We all had experienced hits before, so I said let's go for it."

When Natalie signed to Modern/Atlantic Records (the label that launched Stevie Nicks successful solo career), she says, "we wanted to generate a fresh sound without cloning anything. We found songs that suited my personality, were contemporary and showed me off well. I think we all felt the pressure, and the importance of the project, so we all wanted to do well for each other."

Two and a half months before she went in the

training she says, "enhanced my physical stability. My voice was in the best shape it's ever been for this album."

Dangerous captures Natalie at her best and is probably her most exhilarating album to date. She frolics on arresting rock-flavored tunes like "Secrets," "Your Car (My Garage)," "Billy the Kid (Next Door)," but rekindles her trademark belts on soaring ballads like "The Gift" and "Nobody's Soldier."

And, when the album was finished, how did she feel? "Relieved," she said candidly, "I felt we put our everything into it. We tried to make every song special. I feel very good about it," she mused, crossing her fingers and looking... dangerous!

Natalie can be seen along with Smokey Robinson, June 12-17 in the Caesars Palace Circus Maximus showroom.

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