

Entertainment

Ebony Etchings, etc.

"KATHY SLEDGE OF SISTER SLEDGE GOES SOLO ON NEW EPIC ALBUM..."

When the Philadelphia born Sledge sisters broke on the music scene with their big Atlantic hit recording "We Are Family," the group more or less became overnight sensations, and Sister Sledge became a household name. Their hit recording literally exploded on the R&B Charts to the coveted number one position while simultaneously reaching the number two spot on the industries Pop Charts, bringing full circle the early in life training that Debbie, Joni, Kim and Kathy had received from their grandmother, and honed to harmonic perfection singing at Philadelphia's Williams Temple Church, and at numerous tea parties and banquets where the youthful Sledge sisters performed as Mrs. Williams' grandchildren.

The impact of their gospel flavored hit was a musical success that gave the sisters international fame, and the message in their song just seemed to reach out and touch folks from all walks of life. "We Are Family," became an anthem at a major gay rights rally that year in Washington, D.C., as well as the team theme song of the Pittsburgh Pirates en route to their World Series victory in 1979.

Their initial recording success introduced them to the world, and their electrifying high energy performances established them as one of the preennial performing groups here and abroad. Even though you haven't heard any new releases from Sister Sledge in quite a while, the group has been constantly touring and performing overseas and performing at special events here in the United States.

Recently we were informed that Kathy Sledge was embarking on a solo recording career, and the news promoted several trains of thought in my mind! One, had they family group broken up? Two, why a solo recording on just one of the family members?

An interview with Kathy Sledge that was arranged by Maurice Warfield at Epic Record offices in Century City, California, gave us direct answers. We are now in a position to set the record straight and pass the in-



KATHY SLEDGE

formation on to our readers of Ebony Etching Etc.

Upon meeting her in the conference room at Epic's west coast offices, I immediately asked the question, "with the success of you and your sisters as Sister Sledge, why are you now recording as a solo act?"

Her reply was simple and straight to the point, "the idea of me doing a solo album didn't happen yesterday. It started several years ago when I received a phone call from Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis, two of the hottest producers in the music business, asking me if I would be interested in doing a solo album. My answer was an immediate 'yes', but nothing materialized from that phone call, so I continued to tour and

perform with my sisters: but the seed had been planted. So in essence my recording a solo album is something that's been in the making for a long time."

She further went on to explain that the group is very much together and her solo recording effort is more or less a front runner for future solo recording efforts by her other sisters...and by no means had Sister Sledge called it a day as a recording and performing group.

Following this information to set the record straight about the family group and her solo debut, we then went on to talk about her recently released Epic Album "Heart," which has all the right musical material and ingredients to make it just as big if not bigger than the previous family effort of "We Are Family."

SENTINEL-VOICE TOP 10 SINGLES

- 1.) JUMP - Kriss Kross
- 2.) MY LOVIN' - En Vogue
- 3.) COME TALK TO ME - Jodeci
- 4.) LIVE AND LEARN - Joe Public
- 5.) GOODBYE - Tevin Campbell
- 6.) SAVE THE BEST FOR LAST - Vanessa Williams
- 7.) IN THE CLOSET - Michael Jackson
- 8.) WHY ME BABY (Remix) - Keith Sweat with LL Cool J
- 9.) PLEASE DON'T GO - Boyz II Men
- 10.) I'LL BE THERE - Mariah Carey

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

STILL #1: Jump

PICK HIT OF THE WEEK:

Please Don't Go

FURTHERMORE: Kriss Kross

could be at the end of their reign, yet still hold on to the top spot for another week; En Vogue says "You're never gonna get it" but if you try hard enough... did you see these fine ladies on the "Arsenio's the Sell-Out" show? They wear red well; Boyz II Men jammin' once again although they're beggin'; Nice remake Mariah - its about time you release something that a female can't dedicate to their man with a vengeance!



KRISS KROSS

Top 20 listing compiled by Willie-Will, Mobile D.J., W.W. Mobile Entertainment Service 594-7594

We discovered that Kathy was the co-writer of three of the songs on her new Epic album including the title cut "Heart." The other two songs bearing Kathy's song writing signature are "Careful" and "Every Little Way." These musical contributions not only enable her to say "this album project is me," it also gave her a better sense of accomplishment about the album in knowing that she was more than just an artist on the project.

The unmistakable signature gospel sound that was so effectual and synonymous with the hit records recorded by Sister Sledge is slightly overshadowed with today's sound in her new album, but her early in life gospel trained roots still comes

through to give her new material a signature sound that is hers' and hers' alone! The cut of "Take Me Back (To Love)," in particular is a heart touching ballad with a story that has all the earmarks of being a 'super' smash and an explosive musical launching pad for Kathy's debut solo album.

So if you're ready to hear what could be considered one of the best new albums around that's full of strong songs, and sung as only Kathy Sledge can sing them, then grab yourself a copy of "Heart" and let yourself become musically mesmerized by one of Philadelphia's very own on her debut solo album...and that's Hollywood this time! Until the next time, Lanier.

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