

NO LONGER A KIDDIE GROUP... THEY ARE "BOYS TURNED MEN"



TAJH, BILAL, KHIRY AND HAHEEM: THE BOYS

By W.G. Ramirez

It all started on Venice Beach. Four young boys—Khiry, Hakeem, Tajh and Bilal Abdulsamad wanted to do something nice for their dad on Fathers Day. They tumbled and flipped, entertaining the people that had gathered, in hopes of raising enough money to take "pops" out for dinner on his special day. When the time came to pay the bill, it was dear ol' dad who sprung for the meal. The kids had raised the money. However, it was dad that was so touched and proud, as he remembered his greatest feeling on this annual occasion.

The Boys, as they are now known, continued with their show, putting routines together and performing for crowds down at Venice. They literally got tired of doing their "beach show" and expressed interest, of becoming recording artists, with their parents. Three albums later - *The Saga Continues*.

They Boys' third album, entitled *The Saga Continues*, was produced by 16 year-old Hakeem and was written entirely by the group. No longer a 'kiddie group,' these four young men have combined Rap, Pop, New Age and a hint of Sax Swing, in addition to some hard Street Sounds, with a soft blend of Romantic Acoustics.

Tajh, a.k.a T.J., is doing most of the lead singing now that

Hakeem and Khiry can't really hit the high notes. The love ballads on the CD, "Happiness" and "I'm Yours," are a pair that T.J., now 15 years-old, might want the young ladies to keep a close ear upon.

Thirteen year-old Bilal, alias 'Baby B,' has been labeled the group's rapper. The short and stout baby-of-the-bunch debuts his first cut, "Doin' It With The B'," on the latest CD. Motown labelmate Shanice appears on this smoothed-out rap, singing and harmonizing the background vocals. The group had originally promised 'Baby B' a single of his own on the last album, but that never materialized. Bilal developed his rapping technique from one of Motown's most promising artist, MC Trouble. In 1991, the future success of the female rapper came to a halt as she passed away unexpectedly from a congenial heart disease.

The Boys' new CD includes the track, "You Got Me Cryin'," dedicated to their lost friend.

Hakeem, who is enjoying spending these days as 'the Producer,' has extended his studio time to also do work with Tevin Campbell, Shanice, and budding Motown recording artists.

"Producing is my life," says Hakeem. "Eventually I'll start my own label."

During a recent phone inter-

view, before the Boys left for a one-week tour in Africa, eldest brother Khiry conceded that his 16-year old brother's love for producing is very much at large.

"Now a days Hakeem loves producing so much, he doesn't even consider it work."

Khiry strongly believes that the love for ones success will lead to the success that would be loved. "If you really love your work you'll never have to work another day in your life."

Khiry handles the group's business details and will continue to put together his own production company as all four

brothers work on solo projects.

Bilal and T.J. will be working on solo albums and Hakeem, of course, will continue producing.

"I have a feeling that we'll be separated for the next two years," says Hakeem.

"After that, we'll be back together."

Khiry says he would like to extend his credits by working with the likes of Teddy Riley, Boyz II Men, Jodeci and Prince.

Working and touring with celebrities such as these would once enthrall the young teens. "Now we're just all friends and basically just hang out," says

Khiry.

The Boys can easily be recognized as a success story instead of a "one hit story." They may even be a big reason that a lot of today's young stars received their big break. "I think it is really great that other teen groups, such as: ABC, Hi-Five and Kris Kross, to name a few, are making it possible for young blacks to get an opportunity to display their talent," explained Khiry. "I'm proud to think that (The Boys) may have been a part of, or helpful towards many others success."

If your not a fan of "teen

groups," it may be advisable to check out the Boy's newest release, which is the title cut from the CD. Hakeem has even graced us with a special bonus cut on the CD only, entitled "Hak's House of Pleasure;" a special jazz melody that makes you understand Hakeem's true talents as musical engineer and producer.

Then after listening through the CD, try to understand the maturity that has taken place, and the message that these young men are delivering. Because as the show must go on.....*The Saga Continues.*



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when they F-UP!!

MICHAEL JACKSON is JAMMIN and BREAKING OUT OF THE CLOSET with his EUROPEAN TOUR. My long time BUDDY, AND COLLEGE SCHOOL MATE, KEVIN DORSEY, IS ONE OF MICHAEL'S BACKGROUND SINGERS. KEVIN CALLS ME ALL THE TIME TO GIVE ME THE SCOOP. MICHAEL paid a children's book store a visit in EUROPE, and purchased some CHILDRENS BOOKS AND VIDEOS. DON'T ASK ME, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THAT IS ALL ABOUT!!

WELL, UNTIL WE GET BACK IN THE BLACK, REMEMBER LET ME ENTERTAIN YOU IN 1992, AND THEN SOME!!