

# MUSIC MAN OJI EMERGES AS DOMINANT PRODUCER



MUSIC MAN

*(Writer and Producer on Montell Jordan Platinum Project, an Emerging Force in Music Field... This Is How He Does It!)*

Producer/arranger/musician, Oji, has established himself as a dominant figure in the music industry in just a few short years. Writer and producer on the platinum selling project, Montell Jordan's "This Is How We Do It" and "Something 4 Da Honeyz." The man's magic doesn't stop there, however. Oji is staff producer for the Hughes' Brothers enterprise, Underworld Entertainment and holds a music publishing deal at Madonna's Maverick label. To recognize this man as sought after is just the beginning. To call him "hot" is an understatement.

A native of Washington, D.C., Oji settled in Los Angeles two and half years ago, after serving as a keyboardist for some of the industry's finest, including Tom Jones, Patti Austin, Jodi Watley, Chante Moore and Billy Preston. "My musicianship has greatly influenced by production technique," explains Oji, whose producer/writer credits also include spoken word artist, D-Knowledge; Earth, Wind & Fire's, Phillip Bailey; dance music diva Ce Ce Peniston and rapper Coolio.

"Being on the road for so many years, I had the opportunity to travel around the world a few times. The music of the Africa, Europe, Asia and the Middle East

inspires my thought patterns when it comes to creating sound. And because of my music roots, I find myself incorporating jazz and blues with pop, hip hop and r&b," Oji further stipulates.

A musician since the age of 13, Oji was tapped by muses at an early age. His uncle is Major Harris of the legendary Delfonics fame. By the age 17, Oji was performing and traveling with blues veterans like Oliver Sang and Richard "Groove" Holmes. His talent with the keyboards carried him far.

Oji decided to settle in Los Angeles a few years ago to take a break from the road. He built a studio and began producing demos and writing and collaborating with several music types around town. He and Montell Jordan stumbled upon each at other during this time, and the rest, as the say, is history.

Jordan closed a pending deal with Def Jam Records and invited Oji to join him on the project. As Jordan states in his liner notes, "Oji, this is your album also." "This Is How We Do It" has gone

multi-platinum, and now everyone wants the 'Oji touch'.

A diversified talent, Oji has book and television credits already under his belt. He has provided musical arrangement for three children's books on Dove Audio and one for Time Warner entitled "KWANZAA." In addition, it is his theme song that opens Walt Disney Television's "Danny Bonaduce Talk Show." His soundtrack recordings include the films, "Bad Boyz," "Mi Vida Loca," and the upcoming "White Man's Burden" starring John Travolta.

A dedicated music man, Oji has only just begun his ascension up success' ladder. He keeps busy performing with his band, After Hours, and has taken on talent under the auspices of his production company, Adwin Production.

As the list of recording artist awaiting a break in his production schedule continues to grow, Oji continues to show us just how he does it. And as we have seen demonstrated, he does it well! Oji is the producer for the '90's.

## POET'S CORNER

### Poems Wanted For Contest and Anthology

Sparrowgrass Poetry Forum is offering a Grand Prize of \$500 in its new "Distinguished Poet Awards" poetry contest. Thirty-four other cash awards are also being offered. The contest is free to enter.

Poets may enter one poem only, 20 lines or less, on any subject, in any style. The contest closes January 31, 1996 but poets are encouraged to send their work as soon as possible.

Poems entered in the contest also will be considered for publication in the Fall 1996 edition of Treasured Poems of America, a hardcover anthology to be published in August 1996.

Anthology purchase may be required to ensure publication, but is not required to enter or win the contest. Prize winners will be notified by March 31, 1996. A winner's list is provided when requested.

"Poetry is more important than ever," says Jerome P. Welch, Publisher. "Our contest

### "I Have A Dream" Poetry Contest

Young people grades K-6 can submit one original poem, 20 lines or less, typed or neatly written by November 18, for the Second Annual Black Poetry day Contest.

The "I Have A Dream" theme

offers a public forum for new poets that allows them to share their work. We welcome poetry of all styles and themes. Many of our contest winners are new poets with new ideas."

Poems should be sent to Sparrowgrass Poetry Forum, Inc., Dept. N, 203 Diamond Street, Sisterville, WV 26175.

includes freedom, civil rights, justice, brotherhood or Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Two winners per grade level will be selected.

Poetry will be published in pamphlet form and be distributed on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, January 15, 1996. Winners will be notified the week of December 18.

For more information, call the West Las Vegas Library, Young People's Services, at 647-2117.

### In Search of Hope

By Shirley Christian, copyrighted Jan. 1995

Touch the hand of faith for there you'll find hope,  
Look into the eyes of despair, for there one learns to cope.

Walk if you will a mile in a poor man's shoes,  
And you will discover why he has nothing to lose.

Watch a child play happily in a project parking lot,  
Unaware of his surroundings, unconcerned about what he's not.

Take a peek through a kitchen window, on the table  
barely enough to eat,

Talk to a mother who's still trying to hold on despite defeat.

Trade places with a black man for just one day,  
And you'll understand the great price he has to pay.

Live with injustice and you'll pray for peace of mind,  
In your search for hope, remember love, it's the hardest to find.

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