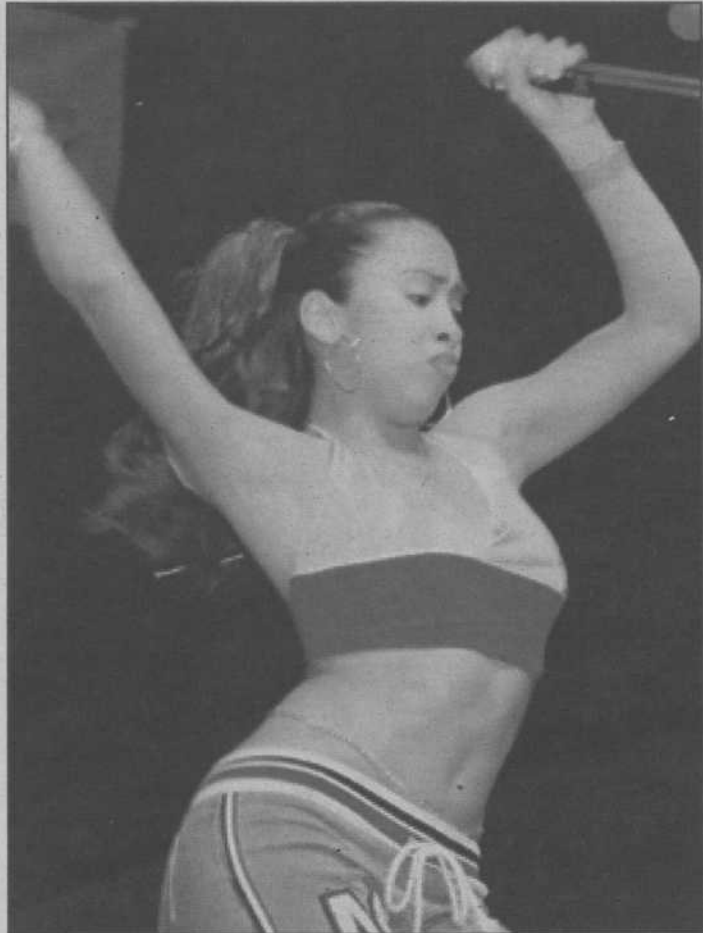


KCEP talent showcase huge success

Talent show competitors: (Below) Candy Cozart grooves to the beat; (adjacent) Member of the group 4 Deep sing to the ladies; (under them) Janie Williams leads her daughters in prayer; (top, far right) Robert Carter croons an R&B ditty; (bottom, far right) Anthony Brooks beatboxes.



Sentinel-Voice photos by Patrease Ashley



KCEP

(Continued from Page 1) sphere was refreshing, cradling the pumping hearts, the sweaty palms and the unbridled enthusiasm of those who waited to embrace the stage.

Supported by the expertise of Sherri Fuller, Xtravaganza Upscale Event Planners' CEO and KCEP's Sr. Account Rep., Nicky Addison, was the project manager.

The talent contest highlighted a variety of styles, ages and genres of music. The KCEP-88.1FM on-air personalities brought their own flavor.

Friday evening's on-air personality, Baby Girl, was amorously coaxed by her many fans to perform a short poetic piece.

Contestant Janie Williams and her two young daughters performed the poem "Oh Lord, Hear My Cry." It was a very touching piece and well received by the audience.

The dance category featured Hypnotik, People of the Sun and Vegas Heat. Vegas Heat, a dance group on roller skates, returned this year to secure first place. Created in 1999 by 25-year-old LeVar Maxwell, accompanied by Jack Vivar, Tim Morin, Alicia Miller and ShaNell

Johnson, the talented team skated their way skillfully to the ultimate win.

Not only did they take first place, but they also received a dance scholarship from A Step Ahead dance studio. Their first place prize was \$500 in cash, a professional DVD demo produced by DVD UNLIMITED, and a professional photo shoot supplied by MVP Promotions.

The vocalist category presented a diverse range of music - from Gospel to Gospel-Hip Hop, R & B, Rock and Beat Box, the art of making musical sounds with your mouth. Beat Box contestant Anthony Brooks won third place receiving \$200 cash, an MVP Promotions package, and dinner for 4 at the Excalibur Hotel & Casino - Tournament of Kings Dinner Show. Jermel Reid added a comedic twist to contestants row.

Entered in the competitive vocal arena were Rock guitarist/vocalist, Jacqueline Cardenas; in Gospel Hip Hop was performer DonAndre Jackson.

"A Christian all my life, coming back to God with my rap" said the Prodigal Son, who incorporated visual enhancements that included his partner, Frank VanNewman,

as Christ carrying the cross. "Joy in My Soul," sung by Brianna French, made her solo stage debut. Michael Jackson and MRK sang the Mary Mary hit, "Shackles." A family affair, the back up band led by Michael Jackson is the father of vocalist Marchelle Jackson. Raine and Karla Luna Sanchez completed the dynamic Gospel trio.

A vocal scholarship, given to Michael Jackson & MRK, was supplied by professional vocal trainers from Artist Choices - Home of the Complete Singer.

The contestants in the area of R & B were quite polished. Participants in that category were Kiwan & Sincere; 16-year-old Eldorado students who played keyboards and sang "Aviant DeVorreyea." Second place winner, Robert

Carter, received \$300 cash and from the Curcarlin Entertainment Group, 20 hours of studio recording time, the manufacturing of 1000 CD's, the CD placed on Starmaker website, a free review of the artist development package done by Next Level Productions and three artist development consultations by Ryze Entertainment.

Hip-Hop was well represented by contestant duo Samuel & Deon and rapper Candy Cozart. Crowd favorite, Most Hated, performed an original rap, "Usual Suspect."

What show is complete without the star look-alike, and that was Raymond Oubichon, a Snoop Dogg look-alike with a voice not too far behind the look.

The 20 contestants were all very talented and judging

must have been difficult.

The judges were Account Executive, Sherryl Ray of Planet Hollywood; CEO/President of Ryze Entertainment, Inc., Anthony Harris; Casting Entertainment agent, Latrell Manuel; Senior Producer of Los Angeles based Retro, Abraham McDonald; Director, Choreographer, Michael Le Fleur; Bea Goodwin of the House of Blues Foundation; Assignment Editor Traci Arnold of KTNV - Channel 13 and Benjamin Demman, Sound Engineer of Sonsongs Recording Studio.

Young ladies screamed for the acts and were joined by nine-month-old Destiny

Stewart, who clapped and squealed with joy throughout the entire show. Destiny's display of pleasure seemed to sum up the crowds opinion of this year's contest.

The showcase featured tap dancer Terrell Roberts, 4 Deep, T.R.U.S.T. and Virg. Their energy was contagious, taking them closer to the professional goals of their performance dreams.

REALITY, the 2002 talent contest winners, performed also. Their stage presence and harmonic blend matched the success of last year's showcase.

They are now in the studio working on an upcoming hot project.

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