

Lady T shows love for Rick James on CD

By Cheryl Smith
Special to Sentinel-Voice
DALLAS (NNPA) - Teena Marie is no lightweight and her latest CD is proof-positive that she has staying power and deserves to be taken seriously. The popular songstress has outdone herself this time around. Not that her previous 13 weren't chart-toppers and critically acclaimed, but the talented Teena Marie brings you lyrics that are sure to stir up memories for those old-schoolers who grew up listening to her rap on Square Biz and pour out her heart in duets with the phenomenal Rick James — who died in 2005, about a month after their last concert appearance together in Dallas.

For Teena Marie, who paid special tribute to James at the BET Awards in 2006 — a year after they shared the stage at the awards program — working on this project was therapeutic.

"I was writing myself out

of my pain," she said in an interview following the CDs release. "He was very special to me."

And special is just what it is. Picking your favorite on "Sapphire" is going to be hard — "Somebody Just Like You," "Cruise Control," "Romantica," "Baby Whose Is It," "Love Is A Gangster" and the title song, all great. Although "Ooh Wee" was the first release, if you stop there, you're missing out on quite a bit. Like the classics of the late Marvin Gaye, Phyllis Hyman or Teddy Pendergrass, every song will move you.

Featured on the CD are Gail Gotti and her sister Queen, Gerald Albright and George Duke.

Lady T has done dynamic work over the years. Audiences were her as she got "Behind the Groove" and rocked the house to "It Must Be Magic," "I Need Your Lovin'," and "I'm a Sucker for Your Love."



Teena Marie, whose career spans several decades, paid homage to deceased friend Rick James on her latest album.

Many swayed to "Dear Mr. Gaye." Singing along with her and James to "Fire and Desire," well, it just doesn't get better.

Since her debut on Motown in the late 1970s and despite a 10-year hiatus, she still remains in heavy rotation on R&B stations. Whether collaborating with the legendary Smokey Robinson or rapper Kurupt, the four-time Grammy-nominated diva shines through with so much emotion that you can't help but believe that she has experienced love at every level. And yes, the love she shared with James is evident throughout the CD as she makes that declaration to him, saying, "I love you Rick," and "I'll always be your Lady T."

The California native said she enjoyed working on this CD and felt that James was with her when she was writing. Also, she said, James would refer to her as his Sapphire.

"I like the project because it all fits together, it has a flow," she explained, adding that it was fun also to work

with her 14-year-old daughter, Alia Rose, who is being introduced in a big way.

That flow Lady T talks about will have you singing along and moving to the beat. And the lyrics can only be described as spellbinding, reaching into the depths of your most memorable relationships and putting a smile on your face as you recall good times.

What makes this, her second release with Cash Money Records, even more enjoyable, is knowing that this talented vocalist/producer/arranger won't be going on hiatus again. She has been touring heavily, including appearances on "Tom Joyner's Fantastic Voyage" and the "Steve Harvey Morning Show."

You can look forward to her new project, which will feature inspirational jazz. Whatever she does, expect it to be good.

Cheryl Smith writes for the Dallas Weekly.

'60 Minutes' has no Bradley replacement

NEW YORK (AP) - Faced with the need to replace Ed Bradley in the middle of the TV season, "60 Minutes" won't. His workload will be spread around, and, in a unique arrangement for the CBS newsmagazine, his top producer will run a reporting unit for stories available to all on-air correspondents.

"It's a long-term project to find the next full-time person who can show the abilities that are expected of a '60 Minutes' correspondent," said Jeff Fager, the show's executive producer.

Even before Bradley's death on Nov. 9, it was a transition year for TV's longest-running newsmagazine.

Mike Wallace has retired, Morley Safer has cut back his hours and Dan Rather is gone. Katie Couric and Anderson Cooper are new contributors.

Bradley, who died at 65 of

leukemia, had only a year to enjoy a status of first among equals at the ensemble. His was the first face shown during the weekly introductions, a subtle indication of status that only Wallace had previously achieved, and he was gone before many even realized it.

"He was the king," said fellow correspondent Bob Simon. "He had the most authoritative presence and style on the broadcast and that's not replaceable."

Bradley also was an off-screen leader at one of TV's most notorious dens of competition and ego.

During the 1995 crisis that became the subject of the movie "The Insider," when "60 Minutes" caved to corporate pressure and delayed a tough report about tobacco companies, "half the office wasn't talking to the other half," correspondent Lesley

(See Bradley, Page 7)

Your Horoscope Says... Jan. 4 - Jan. 10

ARIES

Treat yourself with kindness, and let love be your guiding light. The past few weeks have been rather hard on your personality, but you've come through a troubled time with flying colors.

Soul Affirmation: I am what I consistently do.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 4, 18

TAURUS

Critical voices should be tuned out this week. You are in the mood for a pleasant week and you shouldn't let anyone keep you from your just rewards. Relax with friends who you can share positive vibes with.

Soul Affirmation: I get because I give.

Lucky Numbers: 12, 23, 45

GEMINI

Unexpected company may arrive, or an invitation may be extended. Use good judgment and set realistic goals to protect your valuable personal time. Drive carefully.

Soul Affirmation: I make the first step and the universe will come to my aid.

Lucky Numbers: 34, 41, 47

CANCER

Your rewards come not only from what you do, but from who you are! Give yourself a well-deserved pat on the back and work some wonders. You are full of positive energy this week; use it to your advantage.

Soul Affirmation: I care deeply about the feelings of others.

Lucky Numbers: 10, 11, 26

LEO

Practical matters may seem like nuisances that are there only to spite

your sunny mood this week. The vibration has its place though, and if you apply yourself to practical things, you'll have a lot accomplished by the end of the week. Avoid spinning your wheels on impossible projects or relationships.

Soul Affirmation: Distant love is sometimes sweeter.

Lucky Numbers: 17, 24, 29

VIRGO

Excellent vibrations accompany you to meetings and appointments or anywhere where your gifts of communication can be used. You'll have managers eating out of your hand if you choose to exercise a little charm.

Soul Affirmation: I call on my creative talents to pay my bills.

Lucky Numbers: 18, 32, 47

LIBRA

Charming, simply charming! You have everything going for you this week, so make the most of it. You are capable of handling many projects, and equally capable of asking for help if you need it.

Soul Affirmation: My imagination is the source of my happiness.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 12, 30

SCORPIO

If you acknowledge your need to be with someone this afternoon, the universe will probably provide. Ask for help if you need it. There are many resources available to you that you could be drawing from. All you have to do is ask.

Soul Affirmation: I accept fate and see good in it.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 26, 28

SAGITTARIUS

Watching the sunrise will help quell any impatience that may arise within

you this week. As you watch the sun kiss the sky, imagine that the universe is embracing you with love.

Soul Affirmation: I judge no one, especially myself this week.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 5, 54

CAPRICORN

A surge in your personal power enables you to slay any dragons that you happen to meet this week. If you keep your attention on your own personal dragons, you'll be advancing your own best self by knocking out some less than healthy habits. Use the force for good.

Soul Affirmation: Shining brightly is something that I can do even in shadows.

Lucky Numbers: 20, 33, 51

AQUARIUS

Here's a chance to get to the bottom of an issue that's been bothering you for quite some time. This week you'll feel objective enough to focus on the situation, and not the person who may unwittingly have caused the situation. Go for it.

Soul Affirmation: The enjoyment of good food is high on my agenda this week.

Lucky Numbers: 15, 43, 55

PISCES

Information flows smoothly to and from you this week. You are in your element as communications come and go. You'll learn much as you listen and observe others. Be easy on yourself this week.

Soul Affirmation: I enjoy flirting with new ideas.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 14, 32

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