

Boyz II Men-Releases New Album Online in US

(Los Angeles, CA) February 14, 2006 – Boyz II Men most anticipated new album, The Remedy will finally be available to the group's US fans this Wednesday, Valentine's Day. A date that is a very appropriate and significant for the group who are known for their classic love songs.

The album is already creating a buzz and will be met excitedly by fans old and new, as it is a mixture of smooth, sweet ballads with up-tempo beats and sexy songs to get you in the mood for The Remedy. The new music represents a new outlook and attitude for the guys. This time out they are completely in control of their choices and their entire album creating new songs that will include both signature soulful ballads and upbeat harmonies for which their fans associate with Boyz II Men.

The album has been released in Japan and has already seen success outselling top acts such as Beyonce, Justin Timberlake and Janet Jackson. The response has been phenomenal. They are definitely listening to Boyz II Men in Japan; The Remedy sold 49k units in the first week it was released.

Boyz II Men are currently on tour in Australia, performing their classics to sold out audiences everywhere and promoting the release of their new album. In 2005, they performed at the US Open, the LA Clippers' opening game and on the FOX show Celebrity Duets.

Originally, the CD was scheduled to be a double CD, but with such a busy 2006 and new opportunities in 2007 they ran out of time. The good news for fans is that they are already working on the next project so this CD is a little more of a personal

gift to the fans.

“Bling’d: Blood, Diamonds And Hip Hop” Premieres On VH1, Thursday, February 22 At 8PM

NEW YORK, NY, February 20, 2007 — “Bling’d: Blood, Diamonds and Hip Hop,” a new documentary under VH1’s Rock Docs franchise will take a hard-hitting look at the diamond trade in Sierra Leone, West Africa and the discovery by the “diamond-obsessed” hip-hop community that they may have unintentionally played a role in the country’s war.

This past summer, VH1, Article 19 Films, Djali Rancher Productions and the United Nations Development Program were in Sierra Leone, along with hip-hop artists Paul Wall, Raekwon (of Wu Tang Clan), and reggaeton king Tego Calderon, to film this documentary which premieres on VH1 Thursday, February 22 at 8 PM*.

In the U.S., Kanye West, Jadakiss, Big Daddy Kane, Juelz Santana, Chris Aire, Mr. T and others will weigh in on the evolution of “bling,” what it means to wear diamonds in Hip-Hop America, as well as the issues surrounding conflict diamonds and poverty in mining communities. Along with their insight, the film will be interspersed with testimonials, factoids and graphic images of those directly affected by the diamond trade. These artists are representative of the hip-hop community coming to terms with its obsession with “bling” and the discovery of the effect it has on the impoverished people in Sierra Leone. Kanye West captures this realization

quite simply, "It's just ironic that what made black people feel so empowered was completely demoralizing and destroying other black people."

The 11-year war was largely perpetuated by the revolutionary united front and other genocidal rebels and primarily funded through the illegal trading of conflict or "blood" diamonds in exchange for drugs, food and guns. The rebels sought to control the country's diamond mines and forced civilians including women, the elderly and children to mine these stones or risk losing life or limb. Blood diamonds are a challenge not only in Sierra Leone, but in several West African countries where miners often earn less than a dollar a day and peace and security remain elusive.

In Sierra Leone, Wall, Raekwon and Calderon not only heard first-hand accounts of the atrocities suffered during this time but they witnessed how these citizens are trying to rise from the ruins of conflict and improve their living conditions. The rappers met with local musicians, amputees, refugees and former child soldiers living in the country. Viewers will meet Ishmael Beah, a New-York based former child soldier who went back home to Sierra Leone for the first time in ten years to thank the people who helped rehabilitate him when he was just fifteen years old. The artists got a first hand look at the country's main source of diamond mines when they took a helicopter from Freetown to the Kono district in the northeastern section of the country and visited an alluvial and industrial mine as well as the villages that rely on the diamond trade.

"Bling'd: Blood, Diamonds and Hip Hop," will capture hip-hop's reaction to the human violations, bring global awareness to this issue, and educate Americans about how they can play a role in eradicating the smuggling of blood diamonds and become conscious consumers.

VSPOT, VH1's broadband channel (<http://vspot.vh1.com>) will

feature exclusive scenes and commentary not in the on-air version. For more information on "Bling": Blood, Diamonds and Hip Hop, visit

http://www.vh1.com/shows/dyn/vh1_rock_docs/series.jhtml.

"Bling": Blood, Diamonds and Hip Hop, is produced by Article 19 Films in co-production with Raquel Cepeda, director, for Djali Rancher Productions and in association with VH1 and UNDP. Rebecca Chaiklin (Article 19 films), Filippo Bozotti (Article 19 films) and Raquel Cepeda (Djali Rancher Productions) serve as producers. Serving as executive producers are Irena Mihova for the United Nations Development Program and Brad Abramson, Shelly Tatro, and

Michael Hirschorn for VH1 with Warren Cohen serving as supervising producer.

VH1 connects viewers to the music, artists and pop culture that matter to them most with series, specials, live events, exclusive online content and public affairs initiatives. VH1 is available in 90 million households in the U.S. VH1 also has an array of digital services including VH1 Classic, VH1 Soul and VSPOT, VH1's broadband channel. Connect with VH1 at www.VH1.com.

The United Nations Development Program is the UN's global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life.

Through its TV and Cinema Partnerships initiative, UNDP reflects the many original and surprising ways that people have devised to confront world social problems. Creating moral, insightful and uplifting television and cinema in partnership with major broadcasters and renowned producers is used as a powerful vehicle for understanding the global development agenda. The impact on the global audience is the barometer of the initiative's performance, and a notion of

social action.

Diamonds for Development (D4D) is UNDP initiative launched in 2005, focusing on the sustainable use of revenues from mineral resources. It includes complementary activities for policy reforms, local governance for development by empowering communities and fighting poverty thus improving livelihoods. The program aims to ameliorate the equity, transparency and accountability in mineral resource management on both the grassroots and the policy level.

Classic Soul/Rock Singing Sensation Liv Warfield To Release Debut Album



Liv Warfield is one of the most promising voices in indie soul music today. Her triumphant debut album, *Embrace Me*, is a compelling overload, combining warm, seductive vocals and vintage R&B with a funky new-age twist. Her music is a celebration of love and life; a powerful package of brilliant songwriting and flawless harmonizing. But Liv's greatness lies in her simplicity. She still has that demure mid-western charm about herself and a unique vulnerability that paints a picture of a young woman with an old soul full of timeless,

liberated melodies.

“Ascending from a family history of extraordinary talent arises a self-trained singer, songwriter, performer, arranger and co-producer, Liv Warfield. Warfield is R&B’s purest new musician since Sade. Out of an era dominated by the R&B synthesizer, over sampled hip-hop production and a distinctly bohemian neo-soul movement, emerges a fundamentally pure artist that defies the modern trends of her genre and embodies a global art form through her cross-categorical appeal. A singer who organically blends classic soul, electric rock, sultry rhythm and straight-up sexy blues like Tina Turner”and it’s only the beginning. Artistic genius flows through the veins of this Peoria-born songstress and close relative of the late comedian Richard Pryor. It is through Warfield’s lyrical clarity, her vocal conviction and the brilliance of her timeless arrangements, where she eclipses her contemporaries. Her succinct and purposeful songwriting, inspired by the “message music” of Curtis Mayfield, fuses her gospel-guided sensibilities with secular lyrics that are sultry without sacrificing her foundation of moral authority.” CD Baby

Liv, who is the cousin of legendary comedian Richard Pryor, didn’t inherit her love of music by way of genetics, Sunday morning church choir participation or school band rehearsals, although she did play the violin for 13 years, Liv was a track star who longed to sing. Born and raised in Peoria, Illinois to a family of prideful, standout athletes Liv kept her emotions, talents and dreams to herself and lived vicariously through her musical heroes such as Jill Scott, Nina Simone, Tina Turner, Sarah Vaughn, Sade and Mary J. Blige. “All of these women have strong voices and there is something in each of them that I see in myself. They were not afraid to be vulnerable and didn’t put on fronts. They were raw, pure and intense.”

“In four years she has gone from a raw talent, unsure of

herself onstage, often sitting on a stool wearing a running suit, to a powerhouse, assured of her talent and her ability to move an audience, punctuating her music with movement and magically made-over to allow her outer beauty to match the inner beauty bursting out of every pore.â€” The Oregonian Newspaper

Embrace Me, is all about acceptance and not being afraid to spread your wings to soar to the next level. It is a womanâ€™s album with male sensibilities. Along with an intoxicating blend of rock, alternative, soul and R&B rhythms, there are lush, rhythmic details and arrangements that create a magical sound, with one common thread on the 11-track album being about love- losing love, receiving love, giving love; the pains, the thrills, the inspiration and the disappointment. On the uncomplicated track, â€œABCâ€™sâ€”, a mid-tempo jam about loving yourself for who you are every single day and letting your mind be free, Liv perfects the undisputed rule of being true to ones self. While â€œI Decidedâ€” is a slow-burning groove that deals with the heartache of leaving an emotionally-destructive relationship, â€œWork For Meâ€”, is an inspiring, educational and uplifting single, that transcends time. Liv also drops a dramatic jewel on the live, epic ballad â€œBrother Manâ€”.

â€œOne of the best surprises of all, 27 year old Liv Warfield. The Peoria native comes out of left field as a kind of Sade-meets-Jill Scott-meets-Anita Baker, her sultry, steamy voice deftly handling an excellent collection of jazz-influenced soul on her debut album, Embrace Me, live instrumentation is the perfect backdrop for Warfieldâ€™s groovy, appealing compositions and her surprisingly assured vocals. A stunning new talent and one of the best debut albums youâ€™ll hear this year.â€” Soultracks

As the year winds down, I wanted to take a moment to share with you one of the best CDs that Iâ€™ve heard in 2006. The artist is Liv Warfield, and the name of her debut release is

“Embrace Me”. She’s a very talented young lady hailing from Portland, Oregon. Liv Warfield can SANG! Its R&B music at it’s best; soulful, sensual, funky, and raw. I don’t know what’s going on out in the mid-west, but I think we’re missing out on something. Discover soulful music from the heartland. Liv Warfield’s “Embrace Me” is the perfect introduction. Rhythm Flow

Crooning sweetly on sexy radio-ready tracks and easy-listening ballads, Liv expertly pairs emotive poetry and lyrical storytelling amidst the soundscape of solid instrument laden grooves. Having opened for heavy hitters such as B.B. King, The Dave Matthews Band, The Roots and Floetry, to name a few, this self-described “spontaneous, laid back” chanteuse, has not always been so fortunate in her career. “I’ve sat on the street and sang until five in the morning, sang for money to put gas in the car, checked out of my apartment to be able to have money to do music.”

“This is a lovely, strong set of songs, with Liv’s vocals forefront, indicating the quality of this woman’s vocal delivery. The opener ‘A, B, C’ has, not only Bernard ‘Pretty’ Purdie on drums and vocal chores, but quite the ‘dirtiest’ bassline I have heard all year. An excellent opener, that leads us through Liv’s Soulful musical garden. These songs are all of a very high standard, with, perhaps, ‘Waiting’, ‘Work For Me’ and “Get Away’ being the sets other highlights. All told, very satisfying throughout and a great addition to any Soul collection.”

Soulwalking.co.uk

“Liv is a singer and a songwriter with unlimited potential. She is a vibrant 27 year-old black woman who has all the things going for her that could make her a star. Warfield is so damned positive, such a good wordsmith, sings with such power and conviction that even jaded old reporters can see sunbeams shooting out the top of her head. Her love songs

aren't sappy or nasty, they're sexual, but you actually get the feeling she's talking about love with sex. Quite a concept. She sings about the heartbreak without whining, and calls him out without calling names.â€” Counterpunch

Hip-hop, pop, R&B, soul, rock from a female perspective, the rising star of Liv Warfield and her debut Embrace Me are soon to shoot to instant-classic status. â€œYou can listen to this CD all the way through and itâ€™s going to keep you in a vibe the whole time and then youâ€™re gong to want to listen to it again. You can take away everything else, but my music is something that I will fight for.â€” Spoken like a woman set out to conquer the world.

â€œLocal soul sister Liv Warfield may have gotten her start karaoke-ing at the Galaxy, but now she counts stars like Method Man among her admirers.â€” Portland Mercury Newspaper

For more info [click here](#).

M.E.E & Hip-Hop Edutainment Grows in Brooklyn

The It's All About M.E.E. (Media, Expression, and Education) Festival is a 3-day multi-media celebration taking place from February 23ï½25, 2007. Itï½s All About M.E.E combines the best of our Freshest Youth Program, the Urban Word NYC Poetry Slam Final, and the Hip-Hop Education Summit [H2Ed].

Over 15 community arts and media organizations will participate in the celebration, representing cities like San Jose, Oakland, L.A., Chicago and DC, as well as countries like

Mongolia, Brazil & Canada. Workshop Facilitators include Full Circle, The Grassroots Artists MovEment (G.A.ME), Beatbox Entertainment, What's the 411 Initiative, Words Beats and Life, and Hip-Hop Congress. Special celebrity guests include Roxanne Shante, Doug E. Fresh, Raqiyah Mays and Pharoahe Monch, as well as notable Educators and community leaders such as Jeff Duncan-Andrade, Tamara Dawit, Professor Dave Stoval, Mark Gonzales, Ora Wise, Lavie Raven, and Professor Andrew Ryan will engage in dialogue and workshops. In addition to three days of programming, the Hip-Hop Association will celebrate the official release of the Hip-Hop Education Guidebook: Volume 1, a comprehensive tool for those interested in Hip-Hop Education.

“Teachers have no other choice but to learn how to use hip hop in the classroom. It’s the language of the children. They have to respect the culture of Hip-Hop.”

–Talib Kweli, Hip-Hop Artist

Schedule:

Media & Activities | February 23, 2007 | 12pm ÷½ 6pm:

Setting off the festival, the Freshest Youth Program will be filled with engaging edutainment activities for youth that include break-dancing (b-boying), graffiti art, DJing, MCing, as well as compelling performances by youth in Hip-Hop theatre and film screenings.

Also taking place on this day will be the panel discussion, “When the Gun Draws: Addressing the Epidemic of Gun Violence and the Propaganda Behind It” featuring Legendary Lyricist, Pharoahe Monch, who will be joined by distinguished panelists to examine the rash of gun violence sweeping the nation and strategies to alleviate this preventable plague which is disproportionately effecting Black and Brown communities nationwide.

Panelists include Raqiyah Mays of The Ave Magazine

(Moderator), Piper Anderson of Black Out Arts Collective, Hezues R of Guns 4 Camers, Monifa Bandele of the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement and Terrence Fisher, Director of Bullets In The Hood, winner of the 2005 Sundance Film Festival Short Filmmaking award.

Panel will include a Special Screening of Pharoahe Monch's New Music Video, "When the Guns Draws."

+This event is FREE and open to the public and will be taking place at the Brooklyn Community Arts and Media High School.

Expression | February 24, 2007 | 7pm - 10pm:

In the Urban Word NYC Annual Teen Poetry Slam Final held this year at Brooklyn Academy of Music | Howard Gillman Opera House, hundreds of teens representing every borough and most ethnicities come together in celebration of youth spoken word, to determine which five teens will form that year's NYC Teen Poetry Slam Team and compete at Brave New Voices, the National Teen Poetry Slam.

Seats are almost sold out! To Purchase Tickets visit www.h2ed.net/itsallaboutmee

Education | February 25, 2007 | 7:30am - 7pm:

Closing up the festival once again at the Brooklyn Community Arts & Media High School, the H2Ed Summit will give opportunities for educators, social workers and parents to learn and participate in workshops that will teach how to use Hip-Hop as an educational tool across a multi-disciplinary curricula.

Workshop Schedule:

11:50-12:50AM (1st Hour Facilitator)

Workshop A: Literacy | Rhythm & Reason: Utilizing Hip-Hop to engage literacy, critical thinking and creative writing

facilitated by Urban Word

Workshop B: History | African Ancestry: Tracing Your Roots by Gina Paige

Workshop C: Music | Human Rights Are For Young People Too! Supporting Children's Rights & Participation Through Hip-Hop by Tamara Dawit & Tristan "Collizhun" Graham

Workshop D: Immigration, Social Justice & Leadership | From West Coast to West Bank: Understanding Ideas and Imperialism Through Global Hip Hop by Mark Gonzales

Workshop E: Media – Global Action Project Youth Presentations

Workshop F: Tolerance – Slingshot Hip Hop: Culture and Resistance from Brooklyn to Palestine by Ora Wise

2:50-3:50PM (2nd Hour Facilitator)

Workshop A: English Language Arts – Hip-Hop Novel Vs. Street Literature – Facilitated by Kwan

Workshop B: Global Studies | Global Education Through Hip-Hop HIV/AIDS by Tamara Dawit & Eternia

Workshop C: Math – Edu Rap: Improving Test Scores and Discipline for the Hip Hop Generation by Dr. Ron Kelley

Workshop D: Peer-Peer Mediation By Cashus D, Federation for Hip-Hop Preservation- Chicago

Workshop E: Technology – By Andrew Ryan, Hip-Hop Matters

Workshop F: Diversity By Lavie – BCAM/University of Hip-Hop

Sponsors of the 1st Annual It's All About M.E.E. Festival include SoonR, African Ancestry, St. Martin Press, The Ave Magazine, the Institute for Urban Education at the New School University, and Breakthrough.tv

For more information and registration visit www.h2ed.net/itsallaboutmee.

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About the Hip-Hop Association:

The Hip-Hop Association (H2A) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) community building organization with national headquarters in Harlem. Our mission is to utilize Hip-Hop culture as a tool to facilitate critical technology, education, and leadership development; while preserving Hip-Hop culture for future generations. For more information visit www.hiphopassociation.org.

About Urban Word NYC:

Urban Word NYC ignited the youth spoken word and poetry scene in New York City when it was established in partnership with Teachers & Writers Collaborative in 1999. Since then, Urban Word NYC has provided thousands of New York City teenagers with free, safe, ongoing, and uncensored writing and performance opportunities. Urban Word believes teenagers can and must speak for themselves and the key to building self-confidence, honing critical thinking skills, and developing imaginative and honest writing is to honor what they say and feel. For more information, please visit www.urbanwordnyc.org.

About BCAM:

Brooklyn Community Arts & Media High School provides students a small, personalized learning environment with school, family, and the surrounding Brooklyn and citywide community in a collaborative educational partnership. We offer an exciting and challenging college preparatory academic curriculum and a professional focus in leading communications, arts, and media fields, in a culture wherein students are encouraged to develop individual responsibility, social awareness, self-expression, collective action, and discipline. Through this

three-dimensional notion of high school, BCAM students gain the academic, professional, and social skills to enter a range of college and professional opportunities, and most importantly, succeed in this high stakes 21st Century.

Thank you to our wonderful sponsors, workshop facilitators & staff for supporting our mission to facilitate, foster, & preserve Hip-Hop Culture!