

Carrington's debut mirrors jazz greats

By Kelly Anders
Staff Reporter

Terri Lyne Carrington
Real Life Story
Polygram Records, Inc.

Terri Lyne Carrington is one of those exceptionally talented musicians that blows the crowd away at jazz festivals. The woman's music is fantastic.

album REVIEW

At 23, Carrington has played with more jazz greats than some musicians two and three times her age. She's jammed with Nat Adderly, Max Roach, Pharoah Sanders and Kevin Eubanks and has toured with Wayne Shorter, David Sanborn and Stan Getz.

Now the drummer on The Arsenio Hall Show, Carrington made her television debut performing on WCVB-TV's "The Good Day Show" at age 10. She was featured on "Zoom" and the film "Beat Street" during the following several years. Readers' Digest called her "a musical role model" when she was 11. She played her first solo club date at 14.

Her debut album, "Real Life Story," is nothing short of excellent. Carrington plays drums and sings lead vocals. Joined by well-knowns such

as Dianne Reeves, Patrice Rushen, Carlos Santana, Wayne Shorter and Grover Washington, Jr., this album is exceptional fusion. Each artist's trademark talents mesh beautifully while Carrington is simultaneously showcased throughout.

Although all the songs are good, several of them are awesome. Highlights are "More Than Woman," "Obstacle Illusion," "Human Revolution" and "Message True."

"More Than Woman" is by far the best song on the album. A melange of reggae, jazz and acoustic guitar, the song has an easy, sexy and strong beat. And what lyrics. Her voice sounding a bit like Phoebe Snow, Carrington more than adequately informs her ex that he's obviously still in love with her, but he's not worthy of her. Denver native Diane Reeves, a great chanteuse in her own right, sings background vocals. Greg Osby's saxophone solo is marvelous.

"Obstacle Illusion" is a hard-driving, powerful and intense piece. Drums and keyboards are the only instruments used, with Patrice Rushen on the synthesizer. It's a very well-done, almost fanatically paced work that demands the listeners attention and doesn't let go until the last note fades.

African influenced "Human Revolution" has a complex tempo. Another reggae and jazz mix, this

song features a stunning guitar solo by Carlos Santana. Carrington chants and scats the lyrics with a Grace Jones edge.

"Human Revolution, a worldwide constitution must be established.

Triumphant movie tells true story of high school drug deals, violence

From Staff Reports

"Lean on Me" is a triumphant movie about the true story of New York City's Eastside High School.

movie REVIEW

The film, directed by John Avildsen ("Rocky" and "Karate Kid"), captures the spirit of the man behind the bullhorn, Joe Clark, played by Morgan Freedman.

The film starts with images of a decaying school. Drug deals and violence take place within the walls of the building.

Then comes Joe Clark, who gets one year to turn the school around and produce results. With baseball bat and bullhorn he takes his unorthodox style

and puts it to use to make the world a better place.

Let's start with individual happiness," Carrington sings. "Message True" sports a slightly Calypso-styled beat, yet sounds like it could've been released by fusion artists such as Bob James or David Grusin. Rushen is great on the piano, as is Grover Washington Jr. on the tenor saxophone.

"Real Life Story" is an extraordinary debut album. Carrington's next release is definitely something to look forward to.

The main conflict in the movie occurs between Clark and the leaders of parent groups and fire officials, when he chains the doors to keep hoodlums out.

The film takes a close look at the story that has grabbed headlines across the country. On the outside Clark looks like a brute with no feelings but inside he really cares about his students.

Instead of focusing on the baseball bat or bullhorn, the script captures the entire person. Clark meets those who oppose him head on and handles his students' personal problems with the same intensity.

Although fiction, the film seems to be a truthful portrayal of Clark. Much of the movie was shot in the actual

halls of Eastside High. A story needs to be pumped up for film but Clark's life exceeds any movie.

Freedman's performance adds depth to the character. His acting is flawless. The film has many dramatic confrontations with those who don't see the world as he does.

The scenes are beautifully performed and capture the audience. Many times cheers came from the crowd watching as Freedman triumphs. It's a "feel good" movie.

However, Freedman's character isn't a candy-coated picture of Clark showing only great things. Instead it takes an entire look at the man who has made a lasting impression on education.

"Lean on Me" is showing at Plaza 4 theaters.

Youth no bar to success

By Kelly Anders
Staff Reporter

Myleka
Myleka
MCA Records

Youthful Myleka is no novice when it comes to performing. At 17, she's been singing for almost a decade and has recently released her first album, "Myleka."

album REVIEW

Although she's got some maturing to do as an artist, her album is pretty good. Consisting mostly of uptempo cuts, "Myleka" is nothing innovative or different. It is well-made rhythm and blues.

Beginning her performing career at the age of 8, she later appeared at charity events, talent contests, fashion shows and on cable television broadcasts. At 13, she won first place at Harlem's Apollo Theater during the Amateur Night competition.

Later that same year, she participated in the Apollo's "All Star Review" competition, which featured all previous top prize winners. After singing "I'm Telling You," from the Broadway show "Dreamgirls," Myleka captured first place, making her the Apollo Amateur Night's grand prize winner.

The album starts with "Smooth Talk," an upbeat tune with sassy lyrics. She tells anyone listening not to believe or get attached to someone who talks insincerely.

"Don't let him steal your heart away," she warns. "You're not the only one."

"Confess" follows. The beat's catchy and danceable, and the synthesizer is especially nice. It has a new wave sound to it. The bass isn't showcased but it's really strong. In this song, Myleka insists she's the best and dares her man to admit he wants someone else.

In one of the best ballads on the album, "Trust in Me," Myleka assures the guy in her life that they can always be together if there's trust in their relationship. It has the melodic and smooth sound reminiscent of good ballads of the early '70s. The use of the synthesizer, bass and saxophone is excellent.

The best song on the album is "Love Is." Possessing great lyrics and a better beat, this tune shows Myleka will improve with age.

The words are simultaneously inquisitive and wise. Myleka asks questions such as how to predict romance, and why relationships are such a chance. Her conclusions are very sensible and a bit idealistic.

"Love is giving, learning to trust, sharing dreams and saying 'us,'" she sings.

The accompanying music has a great beat and bass. It's hard to sit still to this one.

Although this album is no blow to the mind, overall it's pleasant and consistently good. It's obvious a lot of preparation went into its release. Myleka seems to take herself seriously. It won't be long before everyone else does, too.

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