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PRODUCTIONS

“Die hard Nat King Cole fans and newcomers alike will be singing the same songs long after the curtain has come down.”

The Business Times

Those seeking a mere revue of Cole's music and style will miss a remarkable performance of great subtlety. UNFORGETTABLE is more than the sum of its musical numbers.

James Yeara / Metroland

FEATURED

UNFORGETTABLE

The Nat “King” Cole Story

Amsterdam, London, South Africa
United States, Hong kong

Starring Monroe Kent III

Written by Clarke Peters
and Larrington Walker

Creators of The West End and Broadway hit
“Five Guys Named Moe”



AMSTERDAM | LONDON | SOUTH AFRICA | UNITED STATES | HONG KONG | BRUSSELS | IRELAND | BELFAST

UNFORGETTABLE

Clarke Peters / Larrington Walkers

West End musical tribute to
Nat "KING" Cole

Starring Monroe Kent III

THE MAN, THE MYTH, THE MUSIC,
are brought to blazing life in UNFORGETTABLE.

From the London stage and engagements throughout
the UK, Japan, the Far East, and the Piccolo Spoleto Festival.

WITH

Edison Herbert

GRAHAM MAYNARD

NEIL CHARLES

WRITTEN BY

Clarke Peters & Larrington Walker

Lighting Design / Christopher E. Edwards

Costume Design / Spotlight Costumes
D'Ambrose Boyd

Music Supervision and Arrangements
Edison Herbert



UNFORGETTABLE is a tribute portrayal of Nat "King" Cole's™ phenomenal life story.

... the son of an Alabama preacher

... the soft spoken jazz pianist who becomes a worldwide singing sensation

... the first performer of color to star in his own national TV program.

Nat "King" Cole™ was a beloved superstar whose appeal transcended the boundaries of race, culture, and geography.

LONN ENT AND RELAVATIONS GROUP

UNFORGETTABLE

STARRING
MONROE KENT III



THE WEST END TRIBUTE TO
NAT "KING" COLE

WRITTEN BY
CLARKE PETERS AND
LARRINGTON WALKER



Unforgettable Cole classics" - Irish Times, Belfast
Unforgettable Grand Opera House

"Clarke Peters and Larrington Walker's deceptively difficult biographical musical of the story of Nat King Cole asks a lot of its performers. During the 135 minutes of Unforgettable only four performers graced the stage of Belfast's Grand Opera House.

As the great man himself, the splendidly named Monroe Kent III, effortlessly retells Cole's rise to stardom and his battles against prejudice, racism and finally cancer. He eases in and out of half a dozen other characters employing the aid of a few props and the odd mannerism or two to paint conversations pictures of the dramas Cole faced.

The New Yorker is one of those gifted people who acts with all of his body and it's no exaggeration to say that his hands are every bit as expressive as his voice. A glance here, a signal there and a gesture with a finger or two often says more than mere dialogue.

Time flies quickly as Peters and Warrington seamlessly weave Cole's story into a string of hits that includes Sweet Lorraine, Too Young, Walking My Baby Back Home, Mona Lisa, Let There Be Love and the title song itself."
John Graydon

THE MUSIC

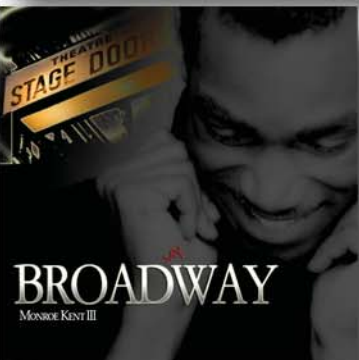
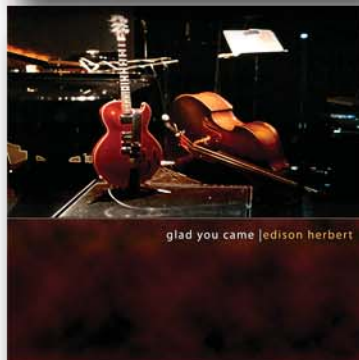
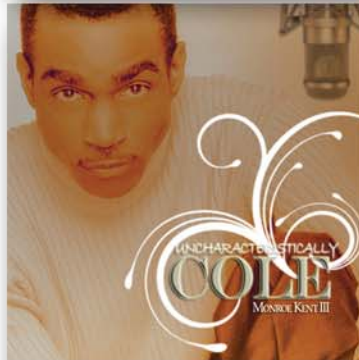
Act I

- When I Fall In Love.....Young/Heyman
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- Straighten Up and Fly Right.... words and music by Nat King Cole and Irving Mills
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- Sweet Lorraine..... Burwell/Parish
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- Frim Fram Sauce.....Evans/Ricardel
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- Route 66..... words and music by BobbyTroup
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- Errand Boy.....Nat King Cole
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- Orange Colored Sky.....words and music by Milton Delugg and Willie Stein
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- Yes Sir That's My Baby.....Donaldson/Kahn
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- Gone With The Draft.....Cole
©xxxx PRS
- Breezin' With The Bass.....Reid/Herbert
- Stardust.....Carmichael/Parish
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- Walkin 'My Baby Back Home.....Ahlert/Turk
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- Smile.....music by Charles Chaplin, words by John Turner & Geoffrey Parsons
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Act II

- Kee-mo Ky-mo.....music by Roy Alfred, words by Bob Hilliard
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- BesameMucho.....Velasquez/Skylar
© Latin American Publishing Company
- Send ForMe.....Jones
©Copyright controlled by Warner/Chappell Music Limited
- Mona Lisa.....lyrics by Jay Livingston, music by Ray Evans
©United States copyright administered by Famous Music Corporation
- Too Young.....words by Sylvia Dee, music by Sidd Lippman
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- Paper Moon.....words by Billy Rose and E.Y. Harburg, music by Harold Arlen
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- Let There Be Love..... Rand/Grant
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Clarke Peters and Larrington Walker, creators of the Broadway and West End smash hit "Five Guys Named Moe", bring you UNFORGETTABLE, the Nat "King" Cole story starring Monroe Kent III



AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING OF NOSTALGIA PETER FELDMAN 03/24/2010

PETER FELDMAN: THE INCOMPARABLE NAT KING COLE IS BROUGHT MAGICALLY TO LIFE BY THE GENIUS OF AMERICAN PERFORMER, MONROE KENT III. THIS IS NOT A TRIBUTE SHOW. IT'S FAR TOO GOOD FOR THAT. WHAT THE CHARMING KENT DOES HERE IS NOT ONLY TO PENETRATE BENEATH THE SKIN OF COLE, WHO GAVE IMMEASURABLE PLEASURE TO MILLIONS AROUND THE WORLD THROUGH HIS VELVET TONES, BUT TO PROVIDE A FASCINATING BACKDROP TO A SINGER WHO PASSED AWAY LONG BEFORE HIS TIME AT THE AGE OF 45 ON 15 FEBRUARY 1965.

THE BEAUTY ABOUT "UNFORGETTABLE," WHICH WAS CREATED BY CLARKE PETERS AND LARRINGTON WALKER, IS ITS RELAXED, STYLISH PRESENTATION. THE FACT, TOO, THAT KENT IS FOREMOST AN ACTOR GIVES HIM THE ADDED ABILITY TO CARVE THE CHARACTER, AND HIS TALKATIVE VALET SPARKY (WHO PROVIDES SOME COMMENTARY TO THE EVENTS THAT TAKE PLACE) WITH DRAMATIC STROKES. ADD TO ALL THIS A WONDERFUL TRIO, LED BY EUROPEAN GUITARIST EDISON HERBERT, AND HELPED ALONG BY TWO SOUTH AFRICAN MUSICIANS, HERBIE TSOAELI (ON BASS) AND NDUDUZO MAKHATHINI (ON PIANO), AND YOU HAVE A MESMERISING SONGBOOK. THEIR ACCOMPANIMENT IS TASTEFUL AND INVENTIVE AND THEY EVEN GET A CHANCE TO PERFORM A COUPLE OF NUMBERS ON THEIR OWN TO SHOW THEIR SKILLS.

MONROE KENT USES THE TOOLS OF THE TRADE, EMPLOYING BOTH VOCAL VARIETY, A VELVET VOICE OF HIS OWN AND PAUSE IN HIS DELIVERY TO WEAVE HIS OWN SPELL AROUND SUCH EVERGREENS AS "ROUTE 66," "STARDUST," "SMILE", "MONA LISA," "LET THERE BE LOVE" AND " BESAME MUCHO." HE ENDS A MEMORABLE EVENING WITH "UNFORGETTABLE" AND THIS PRETTY MUCH SUMS UP THE SHOW.

UNFORGETTABLE

THE COMPANY

Monroe Kent III PERFORMED IN THE WEST END OF LONDON AND OFF-BROADWAY; IN THE HIGHLY ACCLAIMED PRODUCTION OF FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE IN WHICH HE RECREATED AND RECORDED FOR VIDEO THE LEADING ROLE OF NoMAX AT THE ALBERY THEATRE AND IN THE ROLE OF AARON IN BLACK NATIVITY WITH HATTIE WINSTON OF BECKER AND RHETTA HUES.

HE RECREATED THE ROLE OF NoMAX AT THE WILBUR THEATRE IN BOSTON AND THE FORD'S THEATRE IN DC. NATIONAL TOURS IN THE US INCLUDE NUMEROUS REPRISALS OF THE ROLE OF CURTIS TAYLOR JR. IN DREAMGIRLS, AND ANDRE IN AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'.

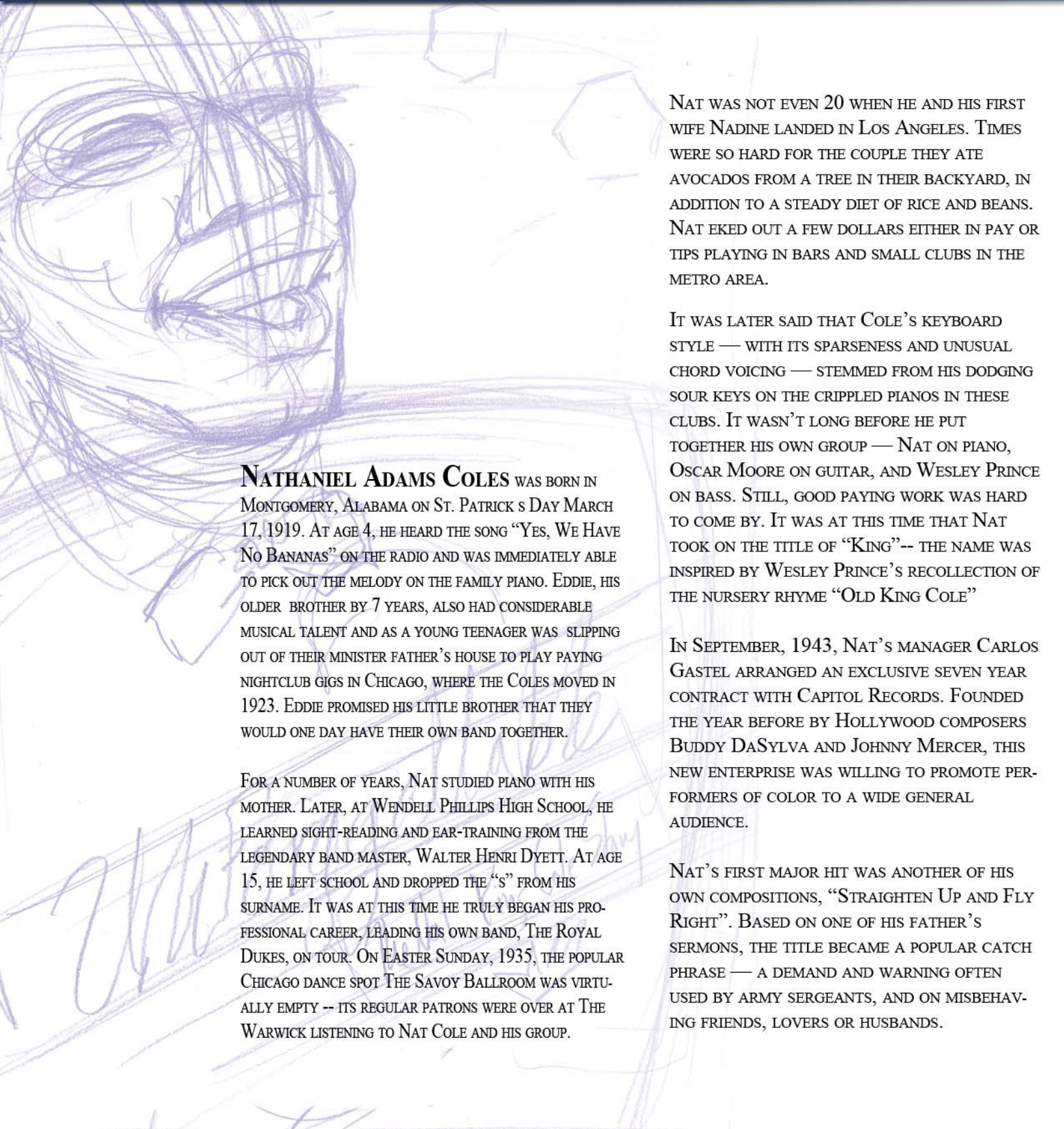
MONROE COULD ALSO BE SEEN ON THE PBS SPECIAL 'HEY! MR. PRODUCER,' A STAR STUDED GALA PERFORMANCE WHERE HE WAS PRESENTED TO THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND AND HIS MAJESTY THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH IN A TRIBUTE TO SIR. CAMERON MACKINTOSH. MONROE'S RECORDINGS INCLUDE HIS SOLO DEBUT ALBUM "BLACK TO BROADWAY" FOR CARLTON ENTERTAINMENT, A DUET WITH STEPHANIE LAWRENCE OF "BLOOD BROTHERS" FAME ON A TIM RICE COMPILATION AND THE GRAMMY NOMINATED BARBARA COOK HOLIDAY ALBUM "COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS".

MONROE HAD THE DISTINCT PLEASURE OF PERFORMING THE ROLE OF THE VILLAINOUS CAIAPHAS IN JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR AT THE SHREVEPORT, OPERA HOUSE.

HIS INVOLVEMENT WITH THE "BROADWAY INSPIRATIONAL VOICES" HAS GIVEN HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO PERFORM ON BROADWAY WITH VANESSA WILLIAMS AT THE PALACE THEATER, HEATHER HEADLEY AT THE NEW AMSTERDAM AND WITH THE CHOIR FOR THE RELEASE OF THEIR GRAMMY NOMINATED CD "GREAT JOY" ALONG WITH TONY WINNER PHYLICIA RASHAD. OTHER CREDITS INCLUDE: SHOWBOAT, WEST SIDE STORY, GUYS AND DOLLS, CAMELOT, AND PIPPIN. VOICEOVERS AND SONGWRITING FOR THE OFF-BROADWAY MUSICAL "MANHATTAN MOVES".



ABOUT NAT “KING” COLE...



NATHANIEL ADAMS COLES WAS BORN IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY MARCH 17, 1919. AT AGE 4, HE HEARD THE SONG “YES, WE HAVE NO BANANAS” ON THE RADIO AND WAS IMMEDIATELY ABLE TO PICK OUT THE MELODY ON THE FAMILY PIANO. EDDIE, HIS OLDER BROTHER BY 7 YEARS, ALSO HAD CONSIDERABLE MUSICAL TALENT AND AS A YOUNG TEENAGER WAS SLIPPING OUT OF THEIR MINISTER FATHER'S HOUSE TO PLAY PAYING NIGHTCLUB GIGS IN CHICAGO, WHERE THE COLES MOVED IN 1923. EDDIE PROMISED HIS LITTLE BROTHER THAT THEY WOULD ONE DAY HAVE THEIR OWN BAND TOGETHER.


FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS, NAT STUDIED PIANO WITH HIS MOTHER. LATER, AT WENDELL PHILLIPS HIGH SCHOOL, HE LEARNED SIGHT-READING AND EAR-TRAINING FROM THE LEGENDARY BAND MASTER, WALTER HENRI DYETT. AT AGE 15, HE LEFT SCHOOL AND DROPPED THE “S” FROM HIS SURNAME. IT WAS AT THIS TIME HE TRULY BEGAN HIS PROFESSIONAL CAREER, LEADING HIS OWN BAND, THE ROYAL DUKES, ON TOUR. ON EASTER SUNDAY, 1935, THE POPULAR CHICAGO DANCE SPOT THE SAVOY BALLROOM WAS VIRTUALLY EMPTY -- ITS REGULAR PATRONS WERE OVER AT THE WARWICK LISTENING TO NAT COLE AND HIS GROUP.

NAT WAS NOT EVEN 20 WHEN HE AND HIS FIRST WIFE NADINE LANDED IN LOS ANGELES. TIMES WERE SO HARD FOR THE COUPLE THEY ATE AVOCADOS FROM A TREE IN THEIR BACKYARD, IN ADDITION TO A STEADY DIET OF RICE AND BEANS. NAT EKED OUT A FEW DOLLARS EITHER IN PAY OR TIPS PLAYING IN BARS AND SMALL CLUBS IN THE METRO AREA.

IT WAS LATER SAID THAT COLE'S KEYBOARD STYLE — WITH ITS SPARSENESS AND UNUSUAL CHORD VOICING — STEMMED FROM HIS DODGING SOUR KEYS ON THE CRIPPLED PIANOS IN THESE CLUBS. IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE HE PUT TOGETHER HIS OWN GROUP — NAT ON PIANO, OSCAR MOORE ON GUITAR, AND WESLEY PRINCE ON BASS. STILL, GOOD PAYING WORK WAS HARD TO COME BY. IT WAS AT THIS TIME THAT NAT TOOK ON THE TITLE OF “KING”-- THE NAME WAS INSPIRED BY WESLEY PRINCE'S RECOLLECTION OF THE NURSERY RHYME “OLD KING COLE”

IN SEPTEMBER, 1943, NAT'S MANAGER CARLOS GASTEL ARRANGED AN EXCLUSIVE SEVEN YEAR CONTRACT WITH CAPITOL RECORDS. FOUNDED THE YEAR BEFORE BY HOLLYWOOD COMPOSERS BUDDY DASYLVA AND JOHNNY MERCER, THIS NEW ENTERPRISE WAS WILLING TO PROMOTE PERFORMERS OF COLOR TO A WIDE GENERAL AUDIENCE.

NAT'S FIRST MAJOR HIT WAS ANOTHER OF HIS OWN COMPOSITIONS, “STRAIGHTEN UP AND FLY RIGHT”. BASED ON ONE OF HIS FATHER'S SERMONS, THE TITLE BECAME A POPULAR CATCH PHRASE — A DEMAND AND WARNING OFTEN USED BY ARMY SERGEANTS, AND ON MISBEHAVING FRIENDS, LOVERS OR HUSBANDS.



NAT "KING" COLE WAS A GENEROUS AND CARING FRIEND. IN THE EARLY 50's, FRANK SINATRA'S TUMULTUOUS DIVORCE FROM FILM STAR AVA GARDNER CAUSED THE SINGER TO SINK INTO DEPRESSION AND EVEN LOSE HIS VOICE. NAT ARRANGED FOR CAPITOL RECORDS TAKE HIM ON AND FOR SINATRA TO WORK WITH NELSON RIDDLE. 1953 MARKED THE TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF NAT'S OWN CONNECTION WITH THAT COMPANY. FOR CAPITOL, HE HAD SOLD 15 MILLION SINGLES AND 5 MILLION ALBUMS. NOT SURPRISINGLY, THE FIRM'S NEW HOLLYWOOD OFFICE BUILDING — DESIGNED TO LOOK LIKE A STACK OF RECORDS — WAS CALLED "THE HOUSE THAT NAT BUILT".

NBC WAS THE SPONSOR OF NAT'S BREAKTHROUGH NATIONAL TELEVISION SHOW, AND ALTHOUGH NO MAJOR SPONSOR EVER STEPPED FORWARD TO FUND THE PROGRAM, IT HAD TREMENDOUS APPEAL, RECEIVING 10,000 PIECES OF FAN MAIL EACH WEEK. IN 1958, NBC UPPED THE SHOW'S 15 MINUTE FORMAT TO A FULL HALF HOUR, AND IN THE SUMMER OF THAT YEAR SHIFTED ITS TIME SLOT TO 7:30 ON TUESDAY EVENINGS, DIRECTLY OPPOSITE THE \$64,000 QUESTION. NAT'S PROGRAM AND THE POPULAR CBS QUIZ SHOW RAN NECK AND NECK IN THE RATINGS.

NAT KING COLE AND JOHN F. KENNEDY WERE FRIENDS. ON NOVEMBER 18, 1962, NAT SANG AT A PRESIDENTIAL GALA IN LOS ANGELES. NAT SAID GOODNIGHT EARLY TO KENNEDY SINCE HE WAS NEEDED ELSEWHERE THAT EVENING — AT HIS DAUGHTER CAROL'S DEBUTANTE BALL AT THE BEVERLY HILLS HILTON. A SHORT WHILE LATER, THE PRESIDENT CAME TO THE HOTEL AND ASKED COLE IF HE MIGHT JOIN IN THE EVENT. HE REMARKED ON ENTERING THE BALLROOM. "NAT WAS AT OUR DINNER TONIGHT, SO I THOUGHT I WOULD RECIPROCATATE. I CONGRATULATE YOU GIRLS AND YOUR FAMILIES, AND I AM GRATEFUL THAT YOU LET AN ITNERANT PRESIDENT COME TO YOUR PARTY." THE EVENING MADE HEADLINES AND SOCIAL HISTORY.

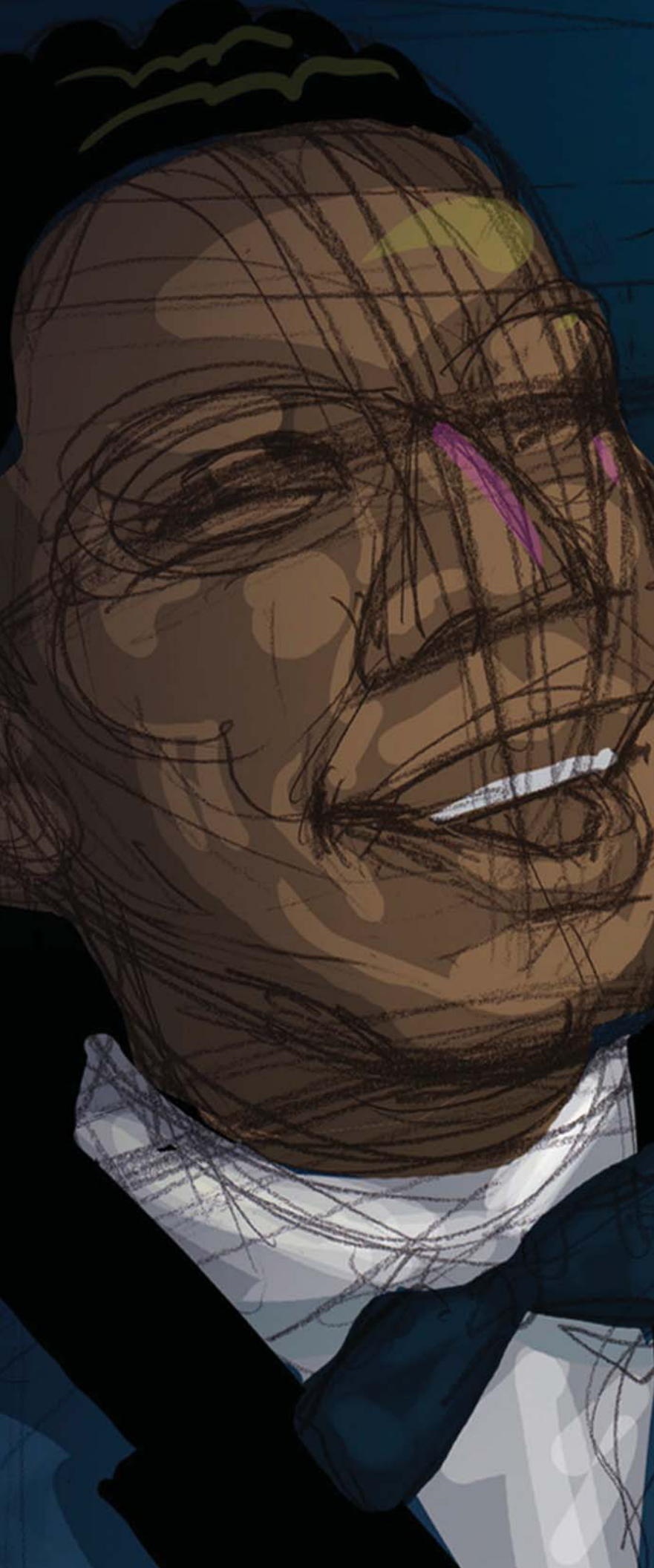
THERE WERE THREE MAJOR COMMERCIAL EVENTS IN THE LAST YEARS OF NAT'S LIFE: FIRST, IN 1958, THE RELEASE OF COLE ESPANOL. SUNG ENTIRELY IN SPANISH, IT BECAME ONE OF THE BIGGEST-SELLING ALBUMS IN CAPITOL'S HISTORY. STILL TO COME, IN THE EARLY 1960'S, COLE'S FINAL CHART-BUSTING HITS: "RAMBLIN ROSE" IN 1962 AND "THOSE LAZY HAZY, CRAZY DAYS OF SUMMER" THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

BY THIS TIME, NAT "KING" COLE HAD BEEN DOMINANT FORCE IN AMERICAN POPULAR MUSIC FOR NEARLY TWO DECADES.

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artwork by Diego Lopez

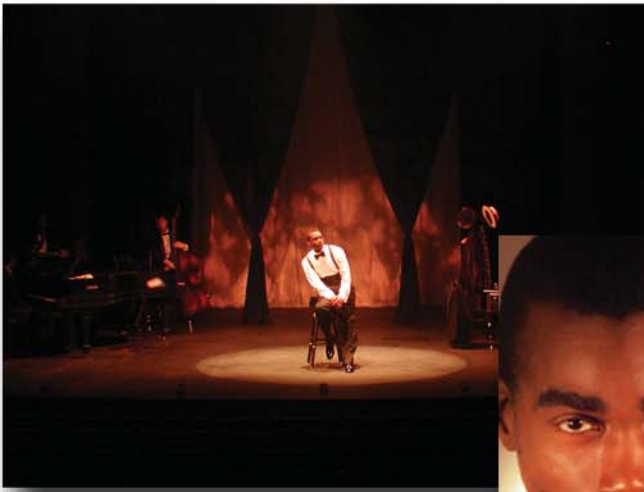


ABOUT NAT "KING" COLE CONT...

ANOTHER LANDMARK OF THAT YEAR WAS NAT'S RELEASE OF THE BALLAD "NATURE BOY". ITS COMPOSER WAS A TRUE BOHEMIAN NAMED EDEN AHBEZ, A FORERUNNER OF THE BEATS AND HIPPIES WHO SPORTED SHOULDER-LENGTH STRAWBERRY HAIR AND WORE SANDALS AND OTHER SIMPLE GARB. IT WAS RUMORED THAT THIS ODD FELLOW CAMPED OUT UNDER THE FIRST "L" IN THE GIGANTIC HOLLYWOOD SIGN WHICH LOOMS OVER THE WEST LOS ANGELES HILLS. STRANGE AND HAUNTING, "NATURE BOY" BECAME THE MOST POPULAR SONG IN AMERICA.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF "MONA LISA" — ANOTHER OF NAT'S GREAT HITS — WAS ALSO UNUSUAL. FIRST CALLED "PRIMA DONNA" (AND SUBSEQUENTLY "AFTER MIDNIGHT"), IT WAS COMPOSED BY JAY LIVINGSTON AND RAY EVANS FOR A FILM ABOUT AN AMERICAN SPY'S INVOLVEMENT WITH THE ITALIAN UNDERGROUND DURING WORLD WAR II. THE SONG WAS A PLOT DEVICE, SUNG AS A SIGNAL TO THE HERO ALAN LADD TO WARN HIM THE GERMANS WERE COMING. RAY EVANS' WIFE WAS A SERIOUS ART LOVER AND SUGGESTED THAT THE SUBJECT OF THE PIECE SHOULD ACTUALLY BE LEONARDO DA VINCI'S MASTERPIECE. IN JEK THE COMPOSERS HUMORED HER AND WORKED UP A NEW SET OF LYRICS. PARAMOUNT PICTURES LIKED THIS VERSION AND ASKED A NUMBER OF PROMINENT SINGERS —FRANK SINATRA, PERRY COMO, VIC DAMONE, AND NAT "KING" COLE — TO RECORD IT. THEY ALL TURNED IT DOWN. LUCKILY CARLOS GASTEL GOT NAT TO RECONSIDER. "MONA LISA" WENT ON TO WIN THE ACADEMY AWARD IN 1950 AND BECOME THE BIGGEST SELLING RECORD OF COLE'S CAREER.

UNFORGETTABLE



An unforgettable evening of nostalgia
Peter Feldman
03/24/2010

The incomparable Nat King Cole is brought magically to life by the genius of American performer, Monroe Kent III.

This is not a tribute show. It's far too good for that. What the charming Kent does here is not only to penetrate beneath the skin of Cole, who gave immeasurable pleasure to millions around the world through his velvet tones, but to provide a fascinating backdrop to a singer who passed away long before his time at the age of 45 on 15 February 1965.

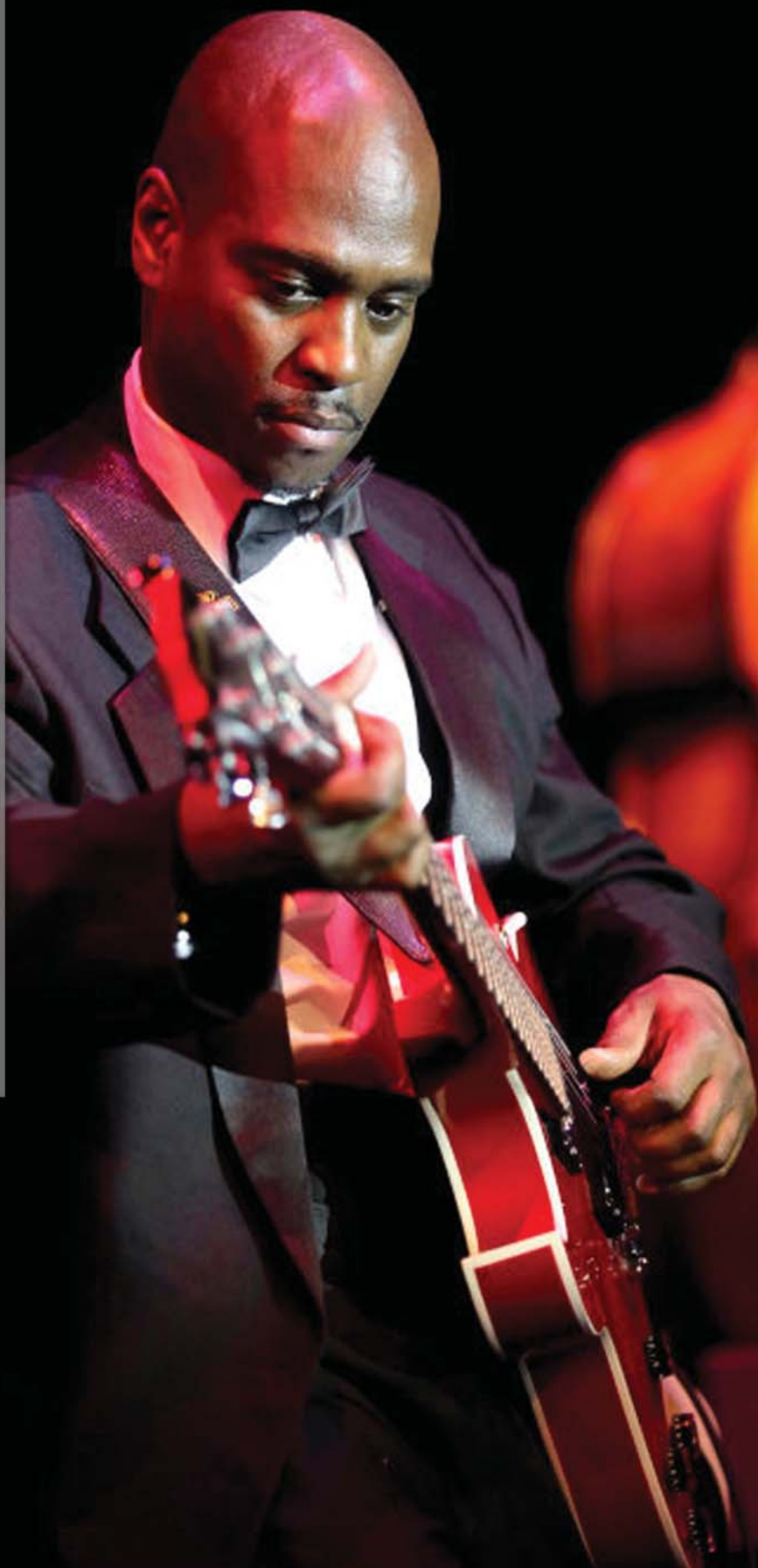
Cole left a massive legacy, not only through his evergreen melodies, but also through daughter Natalie, whom I was fortunate enough to meet when she performed at Sun City many years ago.

The beauty about "Unforgettable," which was created by Clarke Peters and Larrington Walker, is its relaxed, stylish presentation. The fact, too, that Kent is foremost an actor gives him the added ability to carve the character, and his talkative valet Sparky (who provides some commentary to the events that take place) with dramatic strokes. Add to all this a wonderful trio, led by European guitarist Edison Herbert, and helped along by two South African musicians, Herbie Tsoali (on bass) and Nduduzo Makhathini (on piano), and you have a mesmerising songbook. Their accompaniment is tasteful and inventive and they even get a chance to perform a couple of numbers on their own to show their skills.

Monroe Kent uses the tools of the trade, employing both vocal variety, a velvet voice of his own and pause in his delivery to weave his own spell around such evergreens as "Route 66," "Stardust," "Smile", "Mona Lisa," "Let There Be Love" and "Besame Mucho." He ends a memorable evening with "Unforgettable" and this pretty much sums up the show.

Edison Herbert

One of the finest and most expressive guitarists on the UK scene today Edison started his varied career by performing in small gospel groups and choirs. Out of the blue "George Benson in Flight", the album, so impressed young Eddie he was inspired to focus his talents on the guitar, this enriched and expanded his ever growing talents to include R&B, Pop and Jazz. He then moved on to the Yorkshire College of Music where he studied classical piano, Eddie so impressed them, that he was awarded a scholarship to complete his Graduate studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Here he played with The Guildhall Big Band, performing live with Randy Brecker at Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club. Eddie moved on to write the arrangements for West End musical Unforgettable, also playing Motown Music in the "The Grapevine". He varied his experiences by also composing music for the BBC Radio 4 drama Spell Number Seven. Moving into the field of TV played on top shows such as Top of The Pops, Carlton TV, Snakeskips Johnson and Black Britain. Eddie is an international musician who has toured England, Ireland, Spain, Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Bangkok and the USA. "More Beautiful Each Day" Eddie's album his most recent venture is soulful, filled with emotion and laidback grooves. (Reviews available at cdbaby.com/eherbert)





THE NAT "KING" COLE STORY

WRITTEN BY

CLARKE PETERS

LARRINGTON WALKER

Clarke Peters is a writer/performer of rare distinction. He trained as a mime artist studying under Michael Grondo, a protégé of Marcel Marceau in the United States and further studied under Adam Darius. He created the hugely successful and award winning *Five Guys Named Moe*; a show that took the West End of London by storm and successfully transferred to America and Australia. The musical started life as an evening's entertainment for fellow actors whilst on tour with Carmen Jones, and blossomed into one of the success stories of the 90's. It was also named Best Entertainment at the London Evening Standard Drama Awards. Clarke is widely regarded as one of the most innovative performers in England.

Larrington Walker has many credits which include for British television: *Waterloo Sunset*, *Angels*, *Minder*, *Black on Black*, *Moon over Soho*, *Inspector Morse* and *Peak Practice*. For theatre: *Merchant of Venice*, West Yorkshire Playhouse, *The Wizard of Oz*, *White Suit Blues*, Nottingham Playhouse, *The Beggar's Opera* and *Guys and Dolls*, Royal National Theatre, *Five Guys Named Moe* for the Denhoim Elliott Trust and many more. For film: *Burning an Illusion*, *Lamb and Yanks*. As a Director and Writer: *Let There Be Love* (co-author), *Ears*, *Tails and Common Sense*, *Jazz Variations and Blues in the Night* (Asst. Director).

About the Creators...

UNFORGETTABLE

THE COMPANY...

GRAHAM MAYNARD | PIANIST



GRAHAM MAYNARD WAS BORN IN LEEDS, ENGLAND. HE BEGAN PLAYING MUSIC AT A YOUNG AGE LEARNING TO PLAY THE STEEL PAN AND THE CLARINET AT HAREHILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL. HIS TALENT WAS NOTICED BY HIS STEEL PAN TEACHER MR MORRIS, AND ONE OF HIS FIRST PERFORMANCES WAS IN THE 'LEEDS WEST INDIAN CARNIVAL' WITH THE PARADISE STEEL BAND.

GRAHAM'S FIRST KEYBOARD WAS A 'STYLOPHONE' WHICH WAS POPULARISED BY ROLF HARRIS IN THE MID 70'S. GRAHAM PLAYED THIS INSTRUMENT IN A GROUP HE HAD FORMED WITH HIS FRIENDS AT HIS LOCAL CHURCH. HE WENT ON TO LEARN TO PLAY THE PIANO AND THE GUITAR. HE CONTINUED TO HONE HIS MUSICAL SKILLS AT CHURCH PLAYING IN VARIOUS GROUPS. IT WAS DURING THIS TIME THAT HE BEGAN DEVELOPING AS AN ACCOMPANIST FOR VOCALISTS.

GRAHAM WENT ON TO STUDY JAZZ, POPULAR AND CONTEMPORARY MUSIC AT LEEDS COLLEGE OF MUSIC SPECIALISING IN PERFORMANCE WITH PIANO AS HIS FIRST STUDY. DURING THIS TIME GRAHAM PERFORMED IN JAZZ FESTIVALS IN BREDA, NETHERLANDS AND AT 'THE CORK JAZZ FESTIVAL' IN IRELAND.

SINCE COMPLETING HIS STUDIES GRAHAM HAS WORKED IN VARIOUS SETTINGS AS A PIANIST. HE HAS TOURED THE UK EXTENSIVELY WITH AMERICAN RECORDING ARTISTS ALEXANDER O'NEAL AND CHERRELLE. HE HAS ALSO TOURED WITH BRITISH VOCALIST, LEMAR.





NEIL CHARLES | BASSIST



AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF MUSICIANS ON THE BRITISH MUSIC SCENE, NEIL GREW UP IN BIRMINGHAM ALONGSIDE REGGAE AND FOLK MUSIC. NEIL MOVED TO LONDON AND STUDIED AT TRINITY COLLEGE OF MUSIC, STUDYING CLASSICAL DOUBLE BASS. HE JOINED THE JAZZ ORGANISATION FOR YOUNG MUSICIANS CALLED TOMORROWS WARRIORS LEAD BY GARY CROSBY. HOSTING WEEKLY JAM SESSIONS FEATURING ROBERT GLASPER, WYNTON MARSALIS AMONGST OTHERS. THIS EVENTUALLY LED TO THE CREATION OF A BAND, EMPIRICAL, WITH WHOM HE RECORDED THE BAND'S DEBUT ALBUM (NOMINATED AS "BEST ALBUM" AT THE BBC JAZZ AWARDS 2008). NEIL WAS NOMINATED IN THE TOP 8TH JAZZ MUSICIAN 09 SELECTED BY SERIOUS MUSIC COMPANY UK FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT. NEIL HAS WORKED ALONG SIDE ARTISTS INCLUDING, THE CHARLES MINGUS BIG BAND(US), TERENCE BLANCHARD, JACK DEJOHNETTE, JULIA BIEL, MATTHEW HERBERT, JOSE JAMES, GILES PETERSON, JERRY DAMMERS, JASON YARDE, ACOUSTIC BOMBASTIC, POLAR BEAR, DENNIS ROLLINS, DIZZEE RASCAL, AMY WINEHOUSE, ROBERT MITCHELL, COURTNEY PINE, EMPIRICAL, SOWETO KINCH AND RUNS HIS OWN BAND ZED-U WHOSE ALBUM CAME OUT ON BABEL RECORDS 09.

CHRISTOPHER E. EDWARDS | LIGHTING DESIGNER

BROUGHT TO YOU FROM THE LONE STAR STATE, CHRISTOPHER COMES TO YOU WITH OVER 15 YEARS OF PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AS A DESIGNER AND AN ELECTRICIAN. RECENT DESIGN PARTNERSHIPS INCLUDE: C. EULE DANCE Co., THE KUMBLE THEATER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, (DIRECTOR/ACTRESS) Ms. JENNIFER GELFER, THE RESTORATION DANCE THEATRE JR. Co., CITY ATTIC THEATRE Co., THE MILK CAN THEATRE Co., AND THE RELAVATIONS ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, TO NAME A FEW.

ON STAGE

RELAVATION'S ENTERTAINMENT GROUP

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