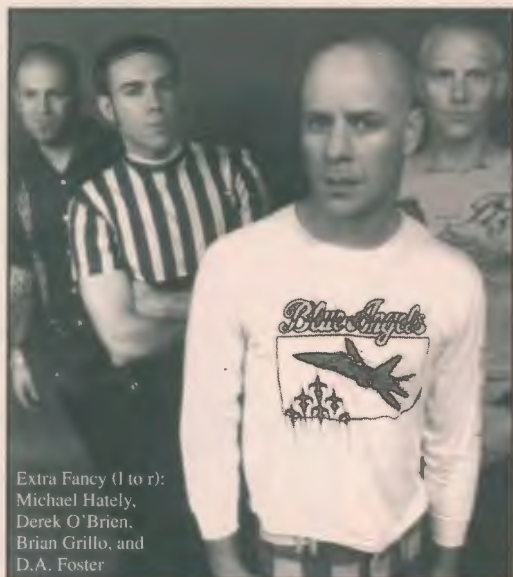


stereotype

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free!



Extra Fancy (l to r):
Michael Hatley,
Derek O'Brien,
Brian Grillo, and
D.A. Foster

EXTRA FANCY MUSIC FOR THOSE WHO LIKE IT HARD

"Here's a band that, until recently, we could only imagine," *The Advocate* wrote about Extra Fancy in a recent issue. "[The band] plays extra-hard rock with major mainstream appeal to the Alice in Chains/Soundgarden/Pearl Jam set but with extra-explicitly queer lyrics screaming away on top." Extra Fancy is comprised of openly gay frontman Brian Grillo, and openly straight bandmates D.A. Foster, Michael Hatley, and Derek O'Brien.

Their Atlantic debut album is called *Sinnerman.*, which, as *The Advocate* points out, is "full of hot, sweaty, horny man-to-man action." Using same-sex pronouns throughout, Grillo's lyrics cover topics like gay-bashing, coming out of the closet, rape, and living with HIV. The first video from the album is for the song "Sinnerman" and features actor Alexis Arquette. The clip, which contains a same-sex kiss, was recently accepted for airing by MTV. Extra Fancy will be performing at gay pride celebrations in Los Angeles (June 23), San Francisco (June 30), and San Diego (July 28). Here, the always engaging Grillo talks to STEREOTYPE about life in Extra Fancy.

STEREOTYPE: What kinds of fans come to your shows? It's not just gay kids, right?

Brian Grillo: No, a lot of our following is straight. A lot more straight people tend to go to rock and roll clubs in general. But our crowd is so different—we also get West Hollywood muscle-builder guys, we get really effeminate guys, we get dykes. We get all different kinds of people because we put on a good show—it's like a freak show, full of chills and thrills and spills and sex and anything else you could want.

STEREOTYPE: Do you ever get any homophobes in the audience?

BG: Oh, yeah. That happened a few weeks ago, actually. This big guy kept coming up to me at the Viper Room in L.A., standing right in front of the stage, going, "You fucking faggot! You're sick!" I said to him, "You're outnumbered here. Get out!" I was ready to fight him, and I jumped off the stage, but he ran out of the club. And we had a run-in with skinheads out in the [San Fernando] Valley once. They waited outside our show wanting to fight us. But that night was lucky because a lot of our friends were there. We had drag queens in mini-skirts throwing their purses around, whaling on them. But ultimately, I really don't believe in violence. I don't like that kind of element to be attracted to our shows because it's more about a release. We like to create a place where anybody can come and feel safe.

STEREOTYPE: How do you think Extra Fancy fits in with the so-called "queercore movement"—bands like Pansy Division, Team Dresch, and Tribe 8?

BG: First of all, I have to say I like a lot of those bands, and a lot of those bands I don't like—just the way I feel about straight bands. I think the queercore scene is very important because it's encouraging young kids to pick up instruments. So for that reason, it's a very cool thing, and everyone should try to support it, because there could be a few geniuses coming out of it. But I've gotten a lot of flack from some people in the queercore hierarchy because I don't call Extra Fancy a queercore band. That was never my goal in the first place. I've never joined groups or scenes or cliques. We're a rock band; we're a punk rock band; we're a hard rock band. I want to reach all kinds of people. I'm sure there are a lot of straight people that can listen to my words and say, "Man, I've been there before."



JEWEL IS GOLDEN AT LIFEbeat PARTY

"You say he's a faggot, do you want to bash in his brain?" goes a line from "Pieces of You," the title song from the debut album by Jewel, Atlantic Records' newest star. "You say he's a faggot, are you afraid you're just the same?" the song continues. "Faggot, faggot, do you hate him/'Cause he's pieces of you?" While Jewel's hit "Who Will Save Your Soul" has become ubiquitous on radio and MTV, gays and lesbians have been responding to the provocative lyrics of "Pieces of You."

"It's a pretty straightforward song," the singer recently told STEREOTYPE when asked about the song's meaning. "I think a lot of people are uncomfortable with aspects of other people, whether it be their sexuality or their race or whatever it is, because those aspects represent the pieces of themselves that they're unsure of. I think the more confident and secure we are with ourselves, the less judgmental we are with other people. It's ultimately a song that urges people to be kind to one another."

In the midst of Jewel's recently completed spring tour with labelmate Duncan Sheik, the singer was a guest of honor at a LIFEbeat party following her show at New York's Irving Plaza. Not only did Jewel help raise over \$2,000 for LIFEbeat—the music industry charity that raises money to help fight AIDS—she was also presented with a gold record for her *Pieces of You* album at the fete.



EVERYTHING BUT THE GIRL PUTS THE SPIN ON N.Y. GAY CLUB

Atlantic Records and *The Advocate* recently sponsored a series of listening parties to celebrate the release of *Walking Wounded*, the new album from Everything But the Girl. The CD, an irresistible blend of house, trip-hop, and jungle rhythms, has garnered the duo the most glowing reviews of their career. EBTG's Ben Watt and Tracey Thorn decided to stop by the special advance listening party at New York's Barracuda the night before the album's May 21st release. The pair was greeted with roaring applause as they entered the club. Watt preceded to act as DJ for awhile, spinning some of his favorite records, while Thorn graciously signed autographs.

Meanwhile, *Walking Wounded* entered the Billboard album chart at #37, their highest debut ever. "Wrong," the first single from the album, made it to #1 on the Billboard dance chart in little over a month. Look for EBTG on tour this summer all over the U.S. (Check out the offer for a free EBTG CD on opposite page!)

VIVA LA TEENAGE DIVA: JORDAN HILL

The One Minute Interview

Watch out, Whitney. Make room, Mariah. There's a new diva in town, and her name is Jordan Hill. Her debut album, *Jordan Hill*, is just out on 143/Atlantic Records, and it features the incendiary dance smash, "For the Love of You," which is also available in a creamy, R&B version as well. The eighteen-year-old singer is from Knoxville, Tennessee, and was discovered performing at Le Mondrian Hotel in L.A. by super-producer David Foster (the man behind Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You" and countless other mega-hits). Foster produced several tracks on *Jordan Hill*, which also includes covers of Cheryl Lynn's "Got to Be Real" and the Bee Gees' "Too Much Heaven." Hill, who will be performing at Los Angeles's Gay Pride festivities on June 22, gave STEREOTYPE sixty seconds of her time during a recent visit to the Big Apple.

STEREOTYPE: Who's your favorite diva?
Jordan Hill: Oh, definitely Whitney Houston.

STEREOTYPE: What's the weirdest dream you've ever had?



JH: The weirdest dream I've ever had? Probably the one where I was falling out of the sky, and I landed on a balloon and it busted, and just before I was about to hit the ground, I woke up.

STEREOTYPE: Do you have any nicknames?

JH: Yeah. "Nitty."

STEREOTYPE: Why Nitty?

JH: Because my original name is Whitney. Jordan is my middle name.

STEREOTYPE: Why do you use your middle name?

JH: Um, because there's *already* a Whitney.

STEREOTYPE: What are you looking forward to about performing at Los Angeles Gay Pride?

JH: The energy. The whole vibe is going to be cool—really high energy.

STEREOTYPE: How did you end up recording Cheryl Lynn's "Got to Be Real" for your new album?

JH: Well, I heard it on the radio one day driving home from the studio, and I thought it was a cool song. And I asked David [Foster] what he thought about it, and I hadn't any idea that David had written and produced the song—the original one. So, he got all excited that I wanted to do it. And so we went to SoulShock and Karlin, who produced Monica and Toni Braxton, and we had them do it with me. And it turned out great!

STEREOTYPE: Last question. If you and Monica were to duke it out, who would win?

JH: I would because I'm taking boxing lessons!

PET SHOP BOYS ARE TRANS-ATLANTIC

The Pet Shop Boys have found a new recording home here in America at Atlantic Records. The duo will release their new album, *Bilingual*, on September 10. The first single is called "Before," which will be released as an enhanced CD5, containing the video to the song, in early July. (Some of you may have already seen promo-only vinyl copies of "Before" with its—ahem—eye-opening cover art.) Atlantic will be premiering the video of "Before" at five club parties in July. We'll be giving away posters and CD5's *so be there!* Here is the schedule of parties:

- July 11.....MinneapolisGay 90's, 408 Hennepin Avenue
- July 12.....HoustonHeaven, 810 Pacific
- July 13.....New YorkChamps, 17 West 19th Street
- July 14.....San FranciscoPleasuredome, 177 Townsend
- July 21.....Chicago.....Glee Club, 1543 N. Kingsbury





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7 Year Bitch (l to r): Selene Vigil, Roisin Dunne, Elizabeth Davis, and Valerie Agnew

7 YEAR BITCH GETS THE SUMMER TOUR ITCH

7 Year Bitch will be taking their singular brand of chugging, fury-driven punk-metal on the road this summer to promote their Atlantic debut, *Gato Negro*. The band will be the opening act on the Tracy Bonham—Spacehog—Everclear tour from June 26 until August 2. Here are some selected dates and venues:

- June 26Portland, OR.....Rosegarden Center Theatre
- July 3St. Paul, MN.....Roy Wilkins Auditorium
- July 5Chicago, ILAragon Ballroom
- July 11Detroit, MIPine Knob
- July 12Cleveland, OHNautica Stage
- July 23Atlanta, GAMasquerade Music Park
- July 28Dallas, TX.....Bronco Bowl
- July 31, Aug. 1.....Santa Monica, CACivic Center
- Aug 2-3San Francisco, CA.....The Warfield

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Towanda, Tamar, and Trina Braxton

The Braxtons: THE REAL SISTERS WITH VOICES

Keep an ear out for the August release of *So Many Ways*, the highly anticipated debut album from the Braxtons, a stunning trio of true sisters with voices that will have you shaking your groove thing for many months to come. If the Braxton name sounds familiar, that's because Tamar, Towanda, and Trina are indeed the siblings of that R&B siren Toni Braxton. But this Braxton troika has their own thing going on, as evidenced by the sultry title track from their new album, which is currently scaling the R&B charts.

So Many Ways also includes a gorgeous string-drenched cover of Diana Ross's 1979 dance classic "The Boss." At a glorious 8 minutes and 8 seconds, the Braxtons' version of "The Boss" tips its hat to the decadent disco era yet remains firmly rooted in today's club sounds with its state-of-the-art remix by Masters of Work ("Little" Louie Vega and Kenny "Dope" Gonzalez).

CONTEST!!!

Name that Braxton!

Okay, so you've obviously heard of Toni Braxton, and you're going to be hearing about sisters Towanda, Tamar, and Trina—known as The Braxtons—all summer long. But, there's a fifth Braxton sister, whose name also begins with a "T."

The first person to send us the name of the fifth Braxton sister, will receive 10 of Atlantic's most happening CD's. Ten runners-up will receive Atlantic's limited-edition Gay Pride '96 CD, which includes The Braxtons' stunning version of Diana Ross's "The Boss," plus music by Everything But the Girl, Jewel, Tori Amos, Extra Fancy, Michael Feinstein, and Jill Sobule.

Send entries, along with your name, address and phone number to: The Braxton Sisters Contest

75 Rockefeller Plaza
 New York, NY 10019
 Attn: Marc Mannino

To receive more information about Atlantic artists, please fill out and return to: Atlantic Records,
 75 Rockefeller Plaza,
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