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Local Artist Working Hard To Create Her 'Big Break'

By RICHARD M. A. SHELTON

The world is filled with aspiring artists/entertainers. Some have obvious talent, while others are merely living a pipe dream. The thing that separates any would-be-star from those who have been awarded the brass ring of success is their big break and how it is obtained.

Monique Broadus, a fledgling singer/composer and keyboardist here in Buffalo, is sure that her big break is forthcoming, because she plans to create it for herself.

Ms. Broadus, a self-described "struggling artist," is currently writing and arranging selections for an album she is in the process of recording. The album, as yet untitled, will feature the philosophies of the 27-year-old poetess set to her own brand of folk/pop/r & b music. A single, displaying two of her originals (I'll Be Yours For A Night and Monique's Mission) is in production with a projected Christmas release.

Like many performers, Monique believes in her music and that's what she's trying to promote. Her music is a cross between the hard-core rap lyrics heard today and the reality-laced stylings of Grammy Award-winning folk singer Tracy Chapman. Ms. Broadus believes that there is a definite link between people and the music they listen to.

"My music is from the heart, from the soul," explains Monique. "They're (her songs) about what's happening today - and what's been happening throughout the



MONIQUE BRODUS

picture. I concentrate on the elements of life that everyone can relate to."

Monique admits that her music is so designed because it is what she has been exposed to in life. The degradation of society, the rampant drug problems, the homeless plight, are all problems that she says she had to contend with through her close to 30 years of life.

"I've seen so many things in my life. My childhood wasn't the best one. But, instead of letting the things I've seen drag me down I decided to do something positive for myself and hopefully the youth of inner-cities all over," said Monique.

While music is prioritized right up there with her two children (Angela, 4 and Justin, 2), it has only been recently that the Buffalo-born singer has started to take music and her abilities seriously.

"I've been singing for years," said Ms. Broadus.

"I've sang as a back-up for many area groups. But, music was never a high point in my life. It wasn't until I taught myself to play keyboards in six months, began composing my own songs, performed them as outdoor concerts on the streets downtown and received praises and encouragement from the public that I took the whole thing seriously. I figured that with this gift I could make a difference in some people's lives with my music."

Monique is confident that all it will take is time for her to realize her dream of success. And success, as she defines it, is creating, developing and performing her music to a public who will listen with open minds and receptive hearts.

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